



A PASSION FOR MENTORSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

SPARKS A JOURNEY TO VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Wendy Hoenig '86 knows a thing or twenty about entrepreneurship and engineering. As global business and R&D director of ventures and business development at The Dow Chemical Company, she worked with entrepreneurs, organizations and universities to help companies build value. As president of her own company, H&H Business Development, she advises entrepreneurs on technology.

When she focused her volunteerism toward her alma mater, Rice's Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK) struck her as a powerful resource for young engineers and entrepreneurs. As a volunteer mentor at the OEDK, she has channeled her knowledge of startup success toward empowering the next generation.

Mentoring design teams at the OEDK, she and her husband, Stephen, an experienced scientist and partner in H&H, have provided numerous students with insight at an important moment in their education.

"Mentoring, for us, is sharing what we know," Wendy says. "When we share the bumps and bruises that we've experienced along the way, hopefully that makes their path a little smoother. Most importantly, we love coaching, and mentoring the OEDK design teams because we always learn something."

“Volunteers have that common foundation that we're Rice and we're going to work to make Rice strong and prepare it for the future.”

— Wendy Hoenig '86



She expanded her engagement to OwlSpark, helping recent Rice graduates strengthen the hard and soft skills they need to build startups. One company built by Rice alumni and mentored by Wendy experienced some big early wins. "I coached Big Delta Systems (now EnPower), a startup battery company," Wendy says. "I had a lot of personal input and helped them to put their strategy together to determine where they were going. When they got their first injection of angel seed money, I was very proud of that and proud for them."

Using her engagement at the OEDK and OwlSpark as a jumping off point, Wendy expanded her volunteer leadership, using her professional expertise and insight as an alumna at every point along the way. She has served as president of Rice Engineering Alumni (REA), as a member of the Brown School of Engineering Advisory Board and as a member of the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA) Board of Directors.

As REA president, she deepened her connection to the School of Engineering itself. "That was a great leap for me and gave me a whole new group of students to interact with," she says. Working with Laura Schaefer, chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, she took on a project to rally the resources to rebuild the Internal Combustion Engine Lab for mechanical engineering students.

"Wendy worked with our students to set up grant funding from the REA to help put new labs in place, which would benefit both our students and those in other departments," says Laura of Wendy's efforts. "She helped to lay out a plan that would let the current students design, build and implement these labs and connected students to experts in the REA community who could give them advice. Her time, dedication and effort have been invaluable in creating a resource for Rice engineering students for years to come."

On the School of Engineering Advisory Board, she helps to strengthen connections to industry and to ensure that Rice prepares students for their transition to industry. As a member of the ARA Board of Directors, she has gained an even broader perspective of the goals of the university and the role of alumni and volunteers.

Much of Wendy's motivation comes from

helping the next generation of Owls set and meet aspirational goals. "Students in this generation have such passion and heart for sustainability," she says. "They consider the environmental impact of their projects and think about how it will affect their generation and generations in the future."

She also enjoys working alongside her fellow alumni. "It's fun to see my old buddies from the 80s and also to see the newer generations and how they are different but still the same," she says. "We are still Rice folks, whether you just graduated a few years ago or you've been out for 30-plus years. We have that common foundation that we're Rice and we're going to work to make Rice strong and prepare it for the future."



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OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE UNMATCHED

2017–2018 VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT



THANK YOU RICE VOLUNTEERS

Watch our students' thank-you video, which takes you on a journey across campus and features a special performance by the Rice Philharmonics, at volunteer.rice.edu/thankyou.



LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT REWARDING AND IMPACTFUL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE?

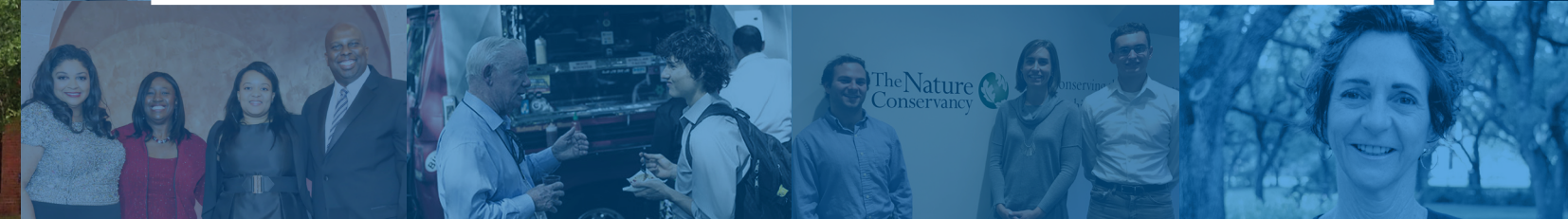
Contact the Volunteer Engagement Team by emailing volunteer@rice.edu or calling 713-348-4046.



2017–2018 VOLUNTEER IMPACT REPORT



OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE UNMATCHED



INSIDE THIS REPORT

A message from Rice President David W. Leebron.

The wide-ranging impact of Rice's unmatched volunteers.

Volunteer Wendy Hoenig '86 mentors Rice's emerging entrepreneurs.



DEAR RICE VOLUNTEERS,

This year, I have traveled across the country to share and discuss Rice’s new strategic plan — the Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade — with alumni, parents and friends. As I reflect on each stop along the way, I marvel at the enthusiasm and dedication of the Rice community, especially our volunteers. What remains exceedingly clear is that your contributions are critical to the success of our vision for Rice, both today and in the future.

Collectively, your efforts as volunteers lead to a deeper, more meaningful education for our students, a more dynamic and connected alumni network, and a broader range of professional opportunities for Owls before and after graduation. You share the power of Rice far and wide while ensuring that we never lose sight of every individual contribution to this community.

In this endeavor, you are truly unmatched. Thank you, our dedicated alumni, parents and friends, for volunteering your time to ensure Rice’s excellence in every respect.

Sincerely,

David W. Leebron

David Leebron

A message from
the president



THE IMPACT OF OUR VOLUNTEERS IS UNLIMITED

Even small acts of volunteerism have a huge impact on the university and on the Rice community. Here, we highlight a few of the many ways Rice volunteers have showed their unmatched commitment to strengthening the alumni community, improving student life and learning, and bolstering Rice’s commitment to excellence.



YOUNG ALUMNI

Young alumni — those from the last ten graduating classes — are a vital and growing segment of Rice volunteers. They are the next generation of volunteer leaders, invigorating events around the country, promoting professional networking and sharing Rice’s value with the world.

- 1,441 young alumni volunteered for Rice in FY2018.
- 24% of Rice volunteers are young alumni.
- Young alumni comprise 27 percent of users on Sallyportal, Rice’s networking hub (sallyportal.org).

“While volunteering with Rice gives me a fantastic and cherished opportunity to reconnect with folks that I know from my time at Rice, one of my favorite things about volunteering is the opportunity to connect and work with alumni, both in my region and throughout the world, that I would not otherwise know.”

— Alicia Burns-Wright ’08, ARA Board Member

RICE VOLUNTEERS
COME FROM



50

STATES

up from 41 in FY2017



40

COUNTRIES

up from 28 in FY2017



34

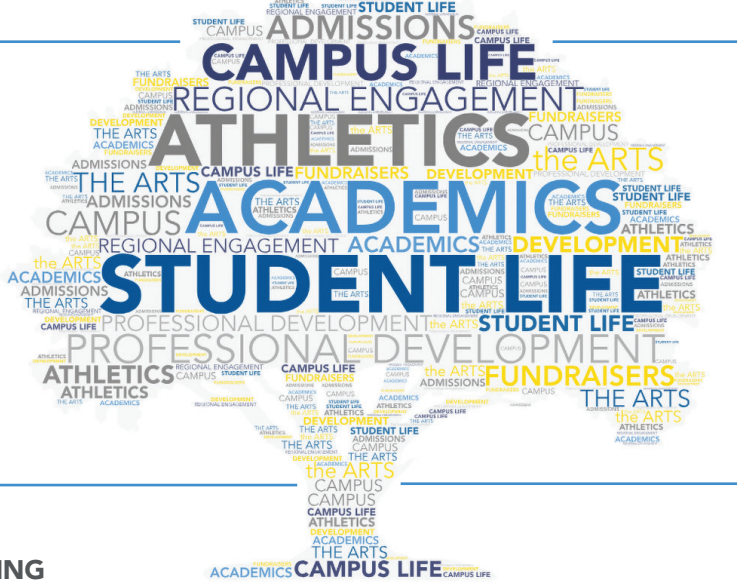
METRO AREAS

up from 32 in FY2017

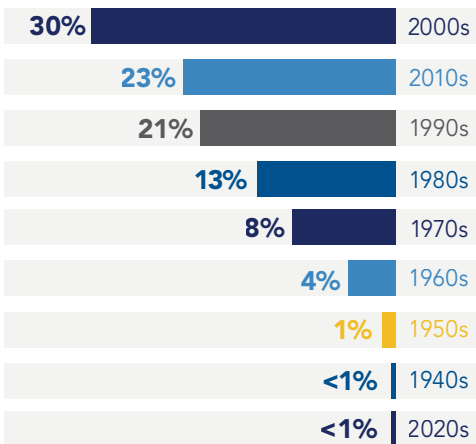
OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY IS UNMATCHED

6,061
VOLUNTEERS

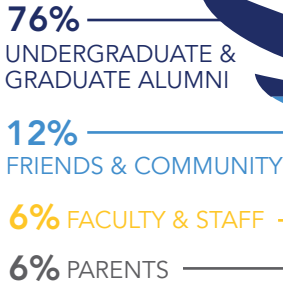
served in 181 unique
roles, with an impact
that branches out across
the Rice campus.



ALUMNI FROM GRADUATING
CLASSES ACROSS THE DECADES
VOLUNTEERED FOR RICE IN FY2018.



VOLUNTEERS
BY AFFILIATION



RICE ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS FOR ADMISSION (RAVA)

The first Owls that many students meet are Rice Alumni Volunteers for Admission (RAVA), who conduct thousands of interviews each year. These ambassadors for Rice provide feedback on applicants, advocate for the university in interviews, and answer questions about the Rice experience from their own perspective.

- Rice received a record 20,898 applications for the Fall 2018 incoming class.
- 1,119 alumni served in RAVA in 2017–2018.
- These alumni volunteers represent 51 states and territories and 26 countries, including: Australia, China, England, Hong Kong, Singapore.
- Volunteers and Rice staff conducted approximately 4,000 interviews during the last admissions cycle.

“RAVA volunteers add untold value to our recruitment efforts through their enthusiasm, engagement and commitment. We appreciate our partnership and look forward to working together as we kick off the Fall 2019 season.”

— Julie Hite, Assistant Vice President and Director of Admission (pictured at right)



HURRICANE HARVEY VOLUNTEERS

When Hurricane Harvey struck Houston in Aug. 2017, the Rice community quickly stepped up to support Owls and Houstonians in need. Administrators and student leaders formed the Rice Harvey Action Team (R-HAT) to assess the needs of Rice faculty and staff, coordinate volunteers and deploy them to community organizations. Volunteers did it all, from tearing out drywall and salvaging personal belongings in flooded homes to delivering food and clothing donations and staffing emergency shelters across Houston.

- 1,356 students, faculty and staff were deployed to heavily affected neighborhoods, emergency shelters and food banks between Aug. 31 and Sept. 4.

“The Doerr Institute was excited that R-HAT volunteers not only served their community in a time of extreme need, but that they also learned how to run programs and operations in the process. They were working with experts in a free-play environment, identifying gaps and choke points, solving problems, and taking care of fellow volunteers as well as the families we were helping. Their efforts were inspiring to all who watched them work.”

— Tom Kolditz, Director of the Doerr Institute for New Leaders

UNRIVALED OPPORTUNITIES

For experienced and new volunteers alike, your next opportunity to make a difference awaits! Below is a selection of fantastic volunteer opportunities. [Sign up today!](#)

MENTOR AN OWL AT THE CENTER
FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

OWL Career Mentors educate Rice students on career-related topics, expanding their networks and empowering them to navigate the professional world. As an OWL Career Mentor, you can help students bridge their education to the professional world and enhance your own mentoring and leadership skills. To join, visit ccd.rice.edu/alumni/career-mentorship.

PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE IN
HOMECOMING & REUNION AS
AN AMBASSADOR

We invite those who are passionate about bringing alumni together to become Homecoming & Reunion Ambassadors. Ambassadors build excitement for and raise awareness of our annual traditions, and they don’t need to be based in Houston.

WELCOME VISITORS TO ENJOY
THE ARTS AT RICE

The Moody Center for the Arts has changed the arts landscape at Rice. Volunteer greeters at the Moody participate in the life of this vibrant arts organization and offer valuable visitor services. If you have an appreciation of the arts, we invite you to learn more about this one-year commitment by visiting volunteer.rice.edu or emailing volunteer@rice.edu.

We want to help find just the right volunteer opportunity for you. To explore opportunities across the university, please visit the Opportunities tab at volunteer.rice.edu.

UNMATCHED VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers support Rice’s pursuit of excellence across many endeavors. Their contributions of talent, values and resources make a lasting impact on the university and on the world. We asked volunteers from across Rice to share their “unmatched moments” that epitomize the value of the Rice community.

During my time on the Rice Engineering Alumni (REA) board, we led efforts to upgrade lab spaces and purchase a carbon fiber 3-D printer. Seeing our board members step up to directly support engineering students is really exciting.



Priya Prasad ’08,
2017–2018 President of Rice
Engineering Alumni

I volunteer out of gratitude for those that spent their private time to help me when I was a student-athlete. I feel a great sense of loyalty to the university, and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to grow and learn at such a prestigious and trying school. I want to continue to help Rice grow and succeed in new areas both athletically and academically by supporting current students and new alumni as they pursue their goals and show them how to continue to give back to the school that made them.



Evan Meeks ’02,
Past President and Board
Member of the R Association

After a student reached out to me through Sallyportal, we met for coffee at Brochstein Pavilion. We chatted for more than an hour, and I extended my professional knowledge and experience in forensics. A few months later, she let me know that she had become an intern at a local forensic lab and expressed her appreciation for meeting with her. As I congratulated her, I smiled in knowing that I helped in her achievement, as others have helped in many of mine.



Matt Andrade Cheney Ph.D. ’14,
Committee Chair of the Society of
Latino Alumni of Rice (SOLAR), Owl
Edge Externship Host, Rice Alumni
Houston Volunteer

Helping our visitors find their way around the gallery has been a privilege and a revelation. For example, it was absolutely astonishing to see the impact of TeamLab’s ‘Flowers and People’ installation on students, families in the neighborhood and visitors.



Sheila Perry,
Volunteer Greeter for the
Moody Center for the Arts