

## ARA PRESIDENT FRANK G. JONES '63

"The ARA wants to unite Owls behind the institution where they spent some of their most formative years, where they have real ties and real friendships and where they learned the things that got them started in life and in their careers."



Frank G. Jones '63 grew up attending Rice football games and riding his bicycle through the city streets that crossed campus. His time as a Rice undergraduate was a highlight of Frank's formative years, and he has made it a priority to give back to an institution that provided him with a top-tier education. Now, as the president of the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA), Frank is committed to raising the profile of this important group. Part of his plan includes celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the ARA.

**What shaped your interest in working with the ARA?** My mother went to Rice, and both of my parents were regularly involved in activities at the university. It was natural for me to be involved in Rice even before I was a student. Rice has been a really important part of my life, and volunteering is a way to stay in touch with the school and with friends. When you get the quality of education you get at Rice, you feel an obligation to give back and allow those who come after you to enjoy the same experience.

**How do volunteers help to achieve the goals of the ARA?** We can't engage our community or work toward a common goal without volunteers. We have an excellent staff at Rice supporting the ARA, but we need active volunteers to provide input as to how we can best serve the school and other alumni. We need volunteers to build our profile, to be involved in the activities and to support the staff.

President Leebron has focused on Rice being a part of the Houston community. As a result, our students are thinking about how to give back and how to help. When these kids graduate and join the ARA, that spirit of volunteerism will follow them.

**You have called the ARA an exceptional community. What is the community like for you?** There are just over 60,000 members of the ARA, but you run into alumni wherever you go. It is a community that identifies with each other and that has mutual respect for each other. When you tell someone you went to Rice, that means something to people.



ARA BOARD MEMBERS AT 2019 FALL MEETING

► **To learn more about Frank's goals for the ARA and his philosophy on volunteerism, read his Q&A at [VOLUNTEER.RICE.EDU](http://VOLUNTEER.RICE.EDU).**

# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ALUMNI SERVICE TO RICE

61,492 

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI

RAVA  
RICE ALUMNI  
VOLUNTEERS  
FOR ADMISSIONS



HAS CONDUCTED **OVER**  
21,000  
INTERVIEWS WITHIN THE PAST  
**FIVE YEARS**

RICE OWLS ARE LOCATED IN  
49 | 52  
U.S. STATES COUNTRIES

OVER  
9,700 

ALUMNI, STUDENTS, PARENTS, FACULTY  
AND STAFF ARE NETWORKING ON  
**SALLYPORTAL.ORG**



THE ARA HAS 16  
AFFINITY GROUPS TO  
CHOOSE FROM. LEARN MORE  
ABOUT WHAT GROUPS  
MATCH YOUR INTERESTS AT  
**ALUMNI.RICE.EDU/GROUPS/AFFINITY.**

**REGIONAL  
GROUPS**

[ALUMNI.RICE.EDU/GROUPS/REGIONAL](http://ALUMNI.RICE.EDU/GROUPS/REGIONAL)

UNITED STATES  
20  
4  
INTERNATIONAL



**RICE VOLUNTEER**

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P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892

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IMPACT REPORT 2019

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING AT RICE!



A MESSAGE FROM  
RICE PRESIDENT DAVID W. LEEBRON



Dear Rice Volunteers,

It was just over a year ago that we first announced The Rice Investment, our historic financial aid initiative that expands support for low- and middle-income families. I am grateful to the Rice community, who rallied around this effort, broadcasting the message that talent deserves opportunity and volunteering their time and resources to ensure access and opportunity for all promising students. This fall, we welcomed the first group of students to benefit from this extraordinary program.

This fall also marks the 100-year anniversary of the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA). In 1919, 147 Rice graduates gathered to celebrate their connections to the university and to cement their commitment to building an alumni community. These founding members set the stage for a century of growth, service and dedication to the grand project of enriching the Rice experience.

Generations of alumni have continued to take up that same mantle. The ARA, in partnership with the greater Rice community, exemplifies the very spirit of volunteerism and generosity that has sustained the university and that is integral to our future success. Our volunteers make alumni events relevant and valuable, encourage student engagement, expand the university's reach and share Rice's values with the world. You are essential Rice ambassadors.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our alumni, parents and friends for volunteering your time, intellect, wisdom and enthusiasm. Your contributions are essential to the growth and progress of the university.

Sincerely,

David W. Leebron  
President



# A CENTURY OF SERVICE

## KEY MOMENTS FOR THE ARA AND VOLUNTEERISM AT RICE

**The first meeting of the Association of Rice Alumni was held on Thanksgiving Day 1919 in the Physics Amphitheater in Herzstein Hall.**

**Established in 1938, Rice Engineering Alumni (REA) is the oldest affinity group at Rice and is dedicated to providing support to the George R. Brown School of Engineering.**

**The first college associates started volunteering in 1957 with the establishment of the residential college system.**

**The Graduate Student Association was officially created in 1969 in Valhalla. Since that time, the group has worked to further graduate student interests and to play a larger role in university affairs.**

**On October 12, 2016, the ARA launched [sallyportal.org](http://sallyportal.org) specifically for those in the Rice community to network, mentor and stay connected.**

## VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Over the past 100 years, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends have made their mark on the university by offering their time, expertise, commitment and enthusiasm. Here are just four of the thousands of volunteers who have worked towards a more engaged community, a more vibrant campus and a continuation of the unmatched Rice experience.

### SONGYING FANG

Associate Professor of Political Science and  
Hanszen Divisional Advisor

"The type of volunteer work that I typically do involves making time for students outside of class. I listen to their experiences and maintain communications with students who have graduated, often weighing in on career choices. When needed, I reach out to those who might be experiencing special challenges, particularly foreign students. As an Asian faculty member and having been a foreign graduate student, I see myself as having a unique role to play in helping foreign and minority students navigate life at Rice."



### KAY AND DAVID LASATER

Chairs of the Parents Leadership Council  
and parents of Sarah '20 (Lovett)

"We volunteer so that we can be better connected to the people and places that are significant to our daughter's experience. These opportunities also help us to meet other parents and to engage with alumni and friends who have enriched this journey for our family."

### AJ BEARD '01

Seattle Area Regional Coordinator,  
Rice Alumni in the Northwest (RAIN)

"I volunteer in order to share the value and impact Rice had on my life with others. Volunteering also helps me to connect with the university in novel and engaging ways. I've volunteered in a number of different ways — Weiss College associate, club frisbee team coach and regional volunteer — and each of these has helped support the mission of building and enriching the Rice community."



## A LOOK BACK: 2018 VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In September of 2018, Rice University hosted the Volunteer Leadership Conference to celebrate the committed individuals who dedicated their time to ensuring excellence at Rice. To learn more about the conference, visit [VOLUNTEER.RICE.EDU/VLC2018](http://VOLUNTEER.RICE.EDU/VLC2018).



## ONE WAY YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

International Friends at Rice is a wonderful opportunity for an international student and a local U.S. friend or family to meet three to four times during the student's first six months at Rice. U.S. friends may help international students discover Houston, invite them for a meal and make them feel more at home.  
**For more information or to apply, please visit [OISS.RICE.EDU/IFR](http://OISS.RICE.EDU/IFR).**