



RICE

RICE ANNUAL FUND | 2022-2023  
LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL

Be **BOLD.**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR RICE

# BOLD IDEAS BEGIN WITH YOU

Inspired by President John F. Kennedy's famous moonshot speech at Rice 60 years ago, the Be Bold campaign challenges the Rice community to advance innovation in education and amplify our impact on the greater world. Your leadership support of the Rice Annual Fund contributes to this enterprise by enhancing the student experience, enabling cutting-edge research and providing a breadth and depth of resources that make a difference in the lives of those in the Rice community and around the world.

Rice students and faculty come to Rice because they have bold ambitions that can be nurtured here — advanced diagnostics for COVID-19, early detection of Alzheimer's, Grammy-winning original music, illuminating memoirs penned by MacArthur "genius grant" awardees, and more. By providing essential leadership support, you instill confidence in their abilities to achieve and enable their incredible ideas to take shape.

At Rice, *bold begins with you.*

## KEY FACTS

### FY22 RICE ANNUAL FUND



**\$7.3 million** raised.

These current-use leadership gifts would have required **\$146 million** in equivalent endowment funds to generate the same level of support based on a 5% endowment distribution rate.

**732**

households contributed to the Rice Annual Fund at the leadership level in FY22.



Leadership-level gifts comprised over **\$5 million**, or nearly **74%** of funds raised for the Annual Fund.

### A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE



**No. 6**

overall for colleges in the U.S.  
by Niche.com

**No. 9**

for Best Value in The Princeton Review.

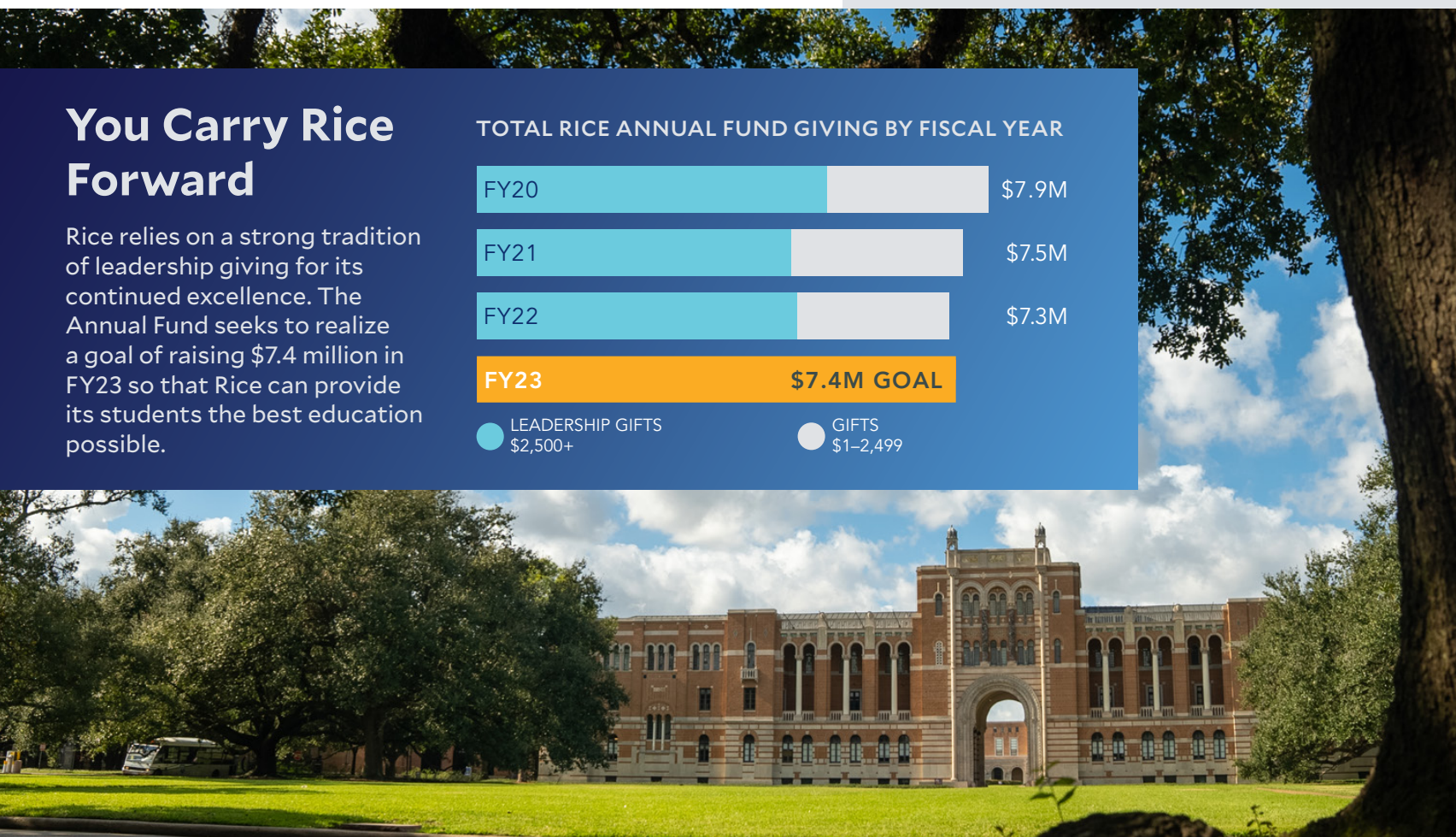
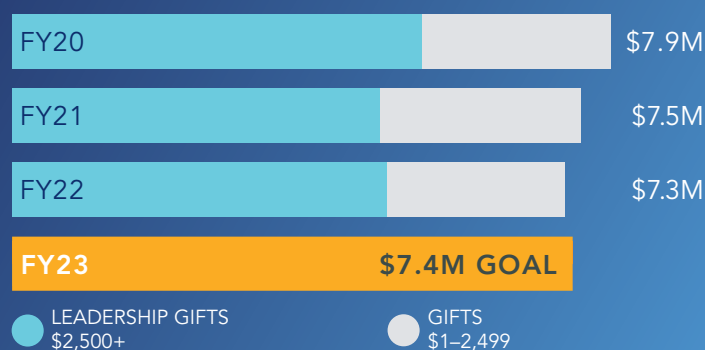
**No. 15**

among national universities and  
**No. 3** for best undergraduate teaching by  
U.S. News & World Report.

## You Carry Rice Forward

Rice relies on a strong tradition of leadership giving for its continued excellence. The Annual Fund seeks to realize a goal of raising \$7.4 million in FY23 so that Rice can provide its students the best education possible.

### TOTAL RICE ANNUAL FUND GIVING BY FISCAL YEAR



# BOLD BEGINS WITH...

## The Service-Minded Undergraduate



**“Rice students genuinely and truly care about building each other up.”**

— Sarah Kim '24

The Rice Annual Fund supports essential aspects of residential college life, like O-Week, a beloved Rice tradition designed to introduce freshmen to the tradition, culture and community of their residential college.

Sarah Kim '24, a business major, describes her time as an O-Week participant and advisor as instrumental to her overall student experience. “It felt like my Rice experience culminated in being an O-Week coordinator,” she said. “It was during O-Week that I made a lot of great connections within my own college, Hanszen. We came together as a team to make sure our new students were comfortable and had as easy of a transition into college life as possible. I believe we all pulled off a fantastic O-Week that focused on the new students. I was very proud to be a Hanszenite.”

Sarah credits generous Rice donors with her chance to contribute to the student experience and fulfill her potential as a leader. Alongside her role as an O-Week Coordinator, Sarah served as a diversity facilitator for Hanszen, a social chair for Rice Program Council and as a coordinator for Beer Bike.

**“Without the generosity of Rice donors, my future would have been very different,”** Sarah explained.

“Because of Rice’s financial aid, I can fully immerse myself in the student experience, branching out to new paths and opportunities. I am very privileged to enjoy the Rice experience without financial concerns. It really is one of my biggest blessings.”

**“I saw very quickly that I was really making an impact on students’ lives.”**

— Philip Ernst, Ph.D.  
Professor of Statistics



## ***BOLD BEGINS WITH...***

### ***The Dedicated Professor***

Rice students crave a good challenge — solving problems, finding unexpected solutions and taking every opportunity to prove their grit. Statistics professor Philip Ernst wouldn't have it any other way.

**“Rice students are deep thinkers who are prepared to tackle any challenge,”** he said. “Our job as teachers is to foster their incredible potential.”

For Ernst, who teaches a calculus-based introduction to probability and statistics, it's about getting to know his students — making a point to memorize each name in the first week of class — and trying different ways to explain a concept until it clicks.

“One of my favorite things to do as a professor is to take myself out of my own mindset and think: what if I were eighteen years old again seeing this material for the first time?”

Ernst's dedicated efforts have not gone unnoticed. Based on the votes of Rice alumni, he recently earned Rice's highest teaching honor, the George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching. “I love knowing that I am making an impact on students' lives,” said Ernst, who noted that it takes a collective effort to make this possible. Leadership gifts from the Rice Annual Fund support teaching excellence across all fields of study.

“The Rice experience is centered on dedicated educators and engaged students pursuing knowledge and working toward solutions that impact us all,” he said. “I think all of us — teachers, alumni, parents — realize that there is nothing more rewarding than investing in Rice students.”

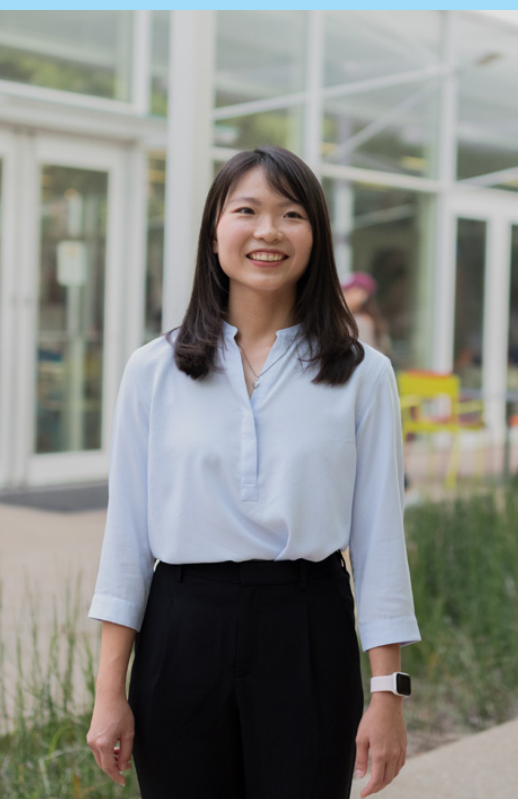


Joshua Moore '24, a fifth-year Ph.D. student in biochemistry and cell biology, studies embryonic development in the lab of biosciences professor, Rosa Uribe. "Outside of cancer, congenital birth defects stand as one of the most widespread and under-researched disorders," Joshua explained. "I study the development of the nervous system that controls the gut, specifically how different genes might impact growth in utero."

Rice, according to Joshua, has played a pivotal role in advancing his research. "It is a small campus that offers ample funding, sound training and the ability to work directly with my advisor. **Rice really is special — the resources are incredible, and I have access to the top medical center in the world.**"

Joshua was initially impressed with Rice's close-knit graduate community, and he has worked to increase connections among his colleagues by serving as the president of the Graduate Student Association, which is supported by the Rice Annual Fund. "We are focusing on building community and finding ways to improve access to learning, especially among underrepresented minority groups. We work with the university, ensuring that graduate students have a seat at the table."

## **BOLD BEGINS WITH...** *The Innovative Scholar*



## **The Cutting-Edge Scientist**

Faye Yap '24, a doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering, has become a certified Rice celebrity for her work in necrobotics — the practice of using dead organisms as robotic components.

"We were moving things around in the lab, and we discovered a dead spider curled up at the edge of the hallway," she said. "At the time, we were really curious why the legs flexed inward when the spider died. We did a quick search online, and we found that spiders do not have antagonistic muscle pairs. They have flexor muscles that allow the legs to curl inward but then rely on hydraulic pressure to extend outward." The team harnessed the spider's physiology to create mechanical grippers that can be opened by applying pressure.

"I am really fortunate to be here and to be surrounded by so many amazing people at Rice," she says. **"Rice's funding is one of the main reasons I have the opportunity to pursue my graduate studies while doing really cool research."**