



RICE

RICE ANNUAL FUND | 2023-2024  
LEADERSHIP PROPOSAL



# Your Impact, Their Adventure

The Rice student journey is unconventional — an adventure marked by rigorous academics, outstanding faculty and experiential learning opportunities. With a supportive residential college system, exciting graduate research opportunities and outstanding technology and library resources, our students are empowered to explore their passions and maximize their talents. **Your leadership-level gifts to the Rice Annual Fund enable our students to become critical thinkers, entrepreneurs and value-driven leaders.**

Across Rice's campus, our classrooms and labs are alight with ambition, curiosity and innovation. Musicians are scoring symphonies, scientists are manipulating the smallest particles of the universe and researchers are blazing their way toward new cancer treatments. Your leadership support can move these tremendous works forward, ensuring that talent and opportunity meet in ways that can change our communities and better our world.

## Key Facts

### FY23 RICE ANNUAL FUND

**\$6.7 million** raised.

These current-use leadership gifts would have required **\$134 million** in equivalent endowment funds to generate the same level of support based on a 5% endowment distribution rate.



**679** households contributed to the Rice Annual Fund at the leadership level in FY23.



Leadership-level gifts comprised over **\$4.5 million**, or nearly **67%** of funds raised for the Annual Fund.

### A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE



**No. 5**

Best Value by U.S. News & World Report

**No. 9**

Best College in America  
by Niche.com

**No. 17**

among national universities and  
**No. 6** 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. Your gift to the Annual Fund strengthens the student experience — providing our Owls with scholarships, graduate stipends, campus safety and more.

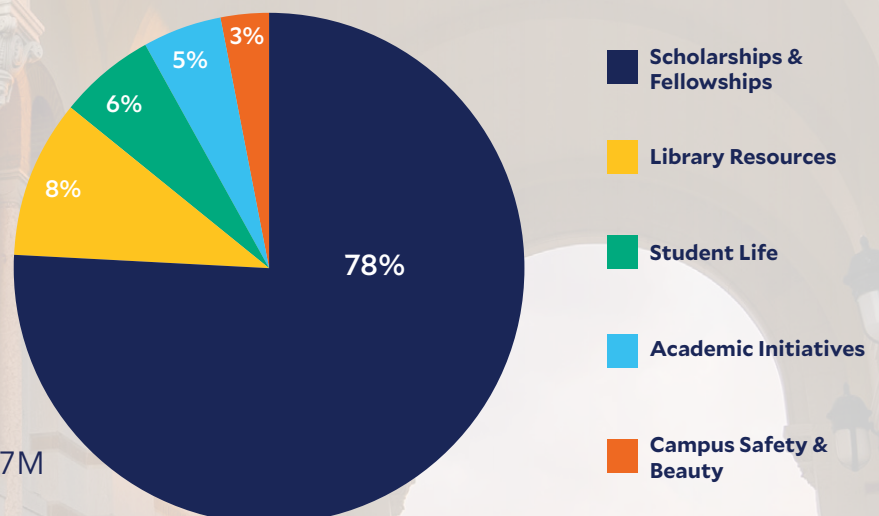
### FY23 RESULTS



LEADERSHIP GIFTS  
\$2,500+

GIFTS  
\$1-2,499

## TOTAL RICE ANNUAL FUND IMPACT IN FY23



A photograph of Elizabeth Fessler '24, a young woman with curly brown hair, smiling and standing in an art gallery. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top and a long, full skirt with a dark green and purple floral pattern. Her hands are in her pockets. In the background, a large, intricate mobile sculpture hangs from the ceiling, featuring various dried plants, leaves, and small white objects. The floor is light-colored wood.

# THE CURIOUS HISTORIAN

*Elizabeth Fessler '24*

As a freshman, Elizabeth Fessler '24 added art history to her existing history major and began interning at the Moody Center for the Arts. "I've always been interested in history, and I changed my major after one of my professors described to me what it was like to work in a museum," Elizabeth reflected.

Thanks to continued mentorship, Elizabeth is progressing toward her dream of working as an art historian. "I've worked at the Moody since I was a freshman. My sophomore year, I was promoted to head gallery guide and was able to expand the team, formalize trainings and assist in adding new roles," Elizabeth said. "I took what I learned working at Moody, traveled to New York and interned at Christie's, a world-renowned art auction house, where I worked across three departments – Prints, American Paintings and Latin American Paintings. For me, faculty support was key in earning competitive internships."

From taking advantage of internship opportunities to expanding her knowledge and traveling abroad, Elizabeth feels like she is getting the most from her Rice experience. She is grateful that Rice Annual Fund donors continue to invest in resources for students. "Donors are doing really valuable things to help every single student have access to the opportunities they need to thrive in their Rice experience."

**"Thanks to Rice, I've been given opportunities to study abroad, accept internships from different states and connect meaningfully with my peers and professors."**



A man with glasses, wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a white 'R' logo and dark trousers, is walking on a paved path lined with trees. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green landscape with many trees.

# THE TRAILBLAZING RESEARCHER

*Cameron Wolfe '23*

Computer Science Ph.D. graduate Cameron Wolfe '23 has seen plenty of success during his time at Rice. As director of artificial intelligence (AI) at Rebuy, an e-commerce AI company, Cameron is bringing academic artificial intelligence research to online shopping platforms. "At Rebuy, I've been able to collaborate with e-commerce companies like Patagonia to personalize online shopping experiences, which recommend products via an AI algorithm," Cameron explained.

Cameron's advisor, Anastasios Kyrillidis, the Noah Harding Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, reminds him to remain curious and to push himself when faced with challenges. "I didn't have a lot of math background coming into my Ph.D., but my first year I decided to challenge myself by writing a series of papers that incorporated a lot of math to expand my skillset. Those papers now have recognition in my industry, and I'm proud of that work. Anastasios set me up for success by guiding me to the needed work and the right resources."

Cameron is grateful for the research opportunities and exceptional advising that have made his time at Rice so productive. "Thanks to Rice Annual Fund donors, I feel so supported and encouraged to explore my passions."

**"Rice's tradition of exceptional resources and mentorship have made all the difference in my career trajectory."**




# THE COMPASSIONATE HEALER

Agnes Ho, LCSW

A Rice education is more than just challenging academics. It is an array of opportunities intended to promote well-rounded, thoughtful scholars and leaders. Agnes Ho, a licensed clinical social worker and director of Rice's Student Wellbeing Office, has led the charge for fostering mental health and wellness among students for the past 11 years, connecting them with resources and educating the Rice community on ways to capitalize on healthy habits and mindsets.

"Much of our work is preventative — giving students tools that contribute to their overall wellbeing," explained Agnes. "We provide a first point of contact for students who are seeking solutions to wellbeing and mental health concerns."

The Student Wellbeing Office, under Agnes' leadership, offers one-on-one sessions with students and hosts a variety of classes on time management, communication, dealing with uncertainty, stress management and more. "Many of our mental health education efforts are fun, too," Agnes said. "We regularly hold study breaks using therapy dogs, and we collaborate with the Betty and Jacob Friedman Holistic Garden to get students outside and into nature. I am so grateful for support from the Rice Annual Fund, which provides resources that help students fully and enthusiastically pursue their education, their passions and certainly their own wellbeing."



**"Helping students maximize their potential means equipping them with the tools they need for healthy minds and bodies."**





## HOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT

Mail the gift form in the enclosed envelope or give online at [riceconnect.rice.edu/leadership](https://riceconnect.rice.edu/leadership).

### CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Double or triple the value of your contribution through a matching gift. Visit [giving.rice.edu/match](https://giving.rice.edu/match) to learn more.

### LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETIES

**CAMPANILE** \$50,000 or more

**SALLYPORT** \$25,000–\$49,999

**LOVETT** \$10,000–\$24,999

**BROWN** \$5,000–\$9,999

**CHARTER** \$2,500–\$4,999

Recognition at one of these levels is based on unrestricted gifts to the Rice Annual Fund, including corporate matching gifts, during one fiscal year (July 1–June 30).

### GIFTS OF SECURITIES

For more information about gifts of securities, contact Melanie Boyd by phone at 713-348-5800 or by email at [mboyd@rice.edu](mailto:mboyd@rice.edu).

### YOUNG ALUMNI LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETIES

**LOVETT SOCIETY** Classes of 2013–2014 **\$2,500**  
Classes of 2015–2023 **\$1,000**

**CHARTER SOCIETY** Classes of 2013–2014 **\$1,000**  
Classes of 2015–2019 **\$500**  
Classes of 2020–2023 **\$250**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** To discuss your gift to the Rice Annual Fund, please contact [giving@rice.edu](mailto:giving@rice.edu) or 713-348-4991.





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