Rice parents play an instrumental role within the university by lending their time, resources and whole-hearted enthusiasm. Below are several ways to get engaged as Rice parents. If you have questions about any of the opportunities listed below, please contact Diane O’Brien, assistant director of parents and families, Rice Annual Fund at 713-348-3287 or dobrien@rice.edu.

1. **Host a student intern through the Initiative for Students.**
The Initiative for Students seeks to harness the substantial influence and passion of the greater Rice community to share information about different careers and industries with undergraduate students. Rice parents are needed to provide short-term Owl Edge Externships (job shadowing) or summer internship experiences for students seeking to apply their classroom learning in real-world professional settings while gaining valuable work experience. Contact Debbie Diamond at ddiamond@rice.edu for more details.

2. **Join or host a student send-off party.**
Send the incoming students off in style by joining or hosting a send-off party in your area over the summer. Or host a social for Rice students in your area during winter or spring break. It’s one of the best ways to show your support while connecting with local parents and Rice alumni.

3. **Welcome freshmen parents.**
In the fall, current Owl parents contact parents of the freshmen class, giving new parents an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns or provide feedback on their student’s Rice experience. Parents are asked to contact 10–20 families.

4. **Celebrate Rice with Rice families.**
Attend Families Weekend October 23–24, 2015, for a variety of events tailored to Owl parents: attend classes or have lunch with your student; experience art debuts, lectures and recitals; or simply wander in, grab a coffee or glass of wine and chat with other members of the Rice community at the Brochstein Pavilion. See a complete list of events at rice.edu/famweek.

5. **Staff events for parents.**
Parents are among Rice’s strongest advocates, with a unique knowledge of the value of our university. Volunteers are needed to staff parent events like Conversation Corner during New Families Orientation and events during Families Weekend. Your role is to greet, answer questions and be a resource for other Owl parents.
6. Learn from Rice’s best and brightest professors.
For one weekend every spring, Rice parents, alumni and friends are invited to expand their intellectual horizons at Classroom Connect on campus. Hosted by the Association of Rice Alumni and the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, the program features a variety of courses, from physics and architecture to nanoscience and Shakespeare. Learn from legendary professors and rising stars while mingling with fellow Rice parents and alumni from all over the country. Learn more at alumni.rice.edu/learning-travel/alumni-education.

7. Volunteer during College Battle.
College Battle is a charitable giving competition between Rice’s 11 residential colleges. For a limited time each spring, parent volunteers are asked to email or call 10-20 parents in their student’s college or their region and ask them to join in supporting the Rice Annual Fund. The competition is based on the number of people who give, not the size of their gift. The winning college will receive a $1,000 donation to their college budget. Your participation can make the difference in your student’s college winning College Battle this year!

8. Make a gift to the Rice Annual Fund.
What does it take to keep Rice’s quality of student life and learning so excellent? Is it (A) small class sizes; (B) conversations with professors outside the classroom; (C) amazing college coordinators, RAs and masters; or (D) a real sense of community and friendship? If you answered “all of the above — and then some,” chances are you’re one of many parents who support the Rice Annual Fund, the university’s most powerful source of current-use funding. Your gift also qualifies for recognition by The Parliament, Rice’s giving society that honors loyal donors who give for three or more consecutive years. Make your gift of any size at giving.rice.edu/parents.

9. Thank parents who make a gift to the Rice Annual Fund.
We appreciate Owl parents and want them to know it. Reach out by phone or email to parents who make gifts to the Rice Annual Fund and say “thank you.” Templates will be provided. One-time or monthly assignments are available.

10. Connect with Rice on Facebook.
Social media is a great way to show your Rice pride and educate others about the great things Rice is doing. Parents are encouraged to “like” and share content from the Rice University Parents and Families Facebook page at facebook.com/riceuparents.