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, associate director of parents and families, Rice Annual Fund at 713-348-3287 or dobrien@rice.edu.

1. **Join or host a student send-off party.**
Send 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.

2. **Celebrate Rice with Rice families.**
Attend Families Weekend October 14–16, 2016, 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 cup of coffee or glass of wine and chat with other members of the Rice community at Brochstein Pavilion. See a complete list of events at rice.edu/famweek.

3. **Welcome new parents at family events.**
Parents are among Rice’s strongest advocates, with a unique knowledge of the value of our university. Volunteers are needed to welcome parents at events like Conversation Corner during New Families Orientation, and Families Weekend. Your role is to greet, answer questions and be a resource for other Owl parents.

4. **Welcome freshmen parents.**
Current Owl parents contact parents of the freshman 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 about 10-20 families.

5. **Host a student for a career mentoring opportunity through the Owl Edge program.**
The Initiative for Students seeks to harness the greater Rice community to share information about careers and industries with undergraduate students. Rice parents are needed to provide short-term Owl Edge Externships (job-shadowing) during winter recess and spring break and/or summer internships to help students apply their classroom learning in real-world professional settings. Contact Debbie Diamond, director of special projects for development and alumni relations, at ddiamond@rice.edu for more details.
6. Get involved with your regional group.
Parents of current Rice students are included in local alumni regional groups. Regional group volunteers provide a way for alumni, parents and friends living outside Houston to interact with and stay connected to others in the Rice community. The Association of Rice Alumni, in conjunction with local volunteers, organizes programs and activities for alumni, parents and friends around the nation and internationally. It’s a great way to get involved in your local community!

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

For more information and opportunities, visit volunteer.rice.edu/opportunities-parents.