

# Connect with Rice

10 Great Ways for Parents and Families  
to Get Involved



Rice parents play an instrumental role within the university by lending their time, resources and whole-hearted enthusiasm. Below are several ways to become 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](mailto:dobrien@rice.edu).

## 1. Join or host a new student celebration.

Send incoming students off in style by joining or hosting a new student celebration 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. Join the Rice community at Families Weekend.

Attend Families Weekend October 27–29, 2017, for a variety of events tailored to Owl parents: attend classes or have lunch with your student; receive a warm welcome from your student's home away from home at their residential college, 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 [famweek.rice.edu](http://famweek.rice.edu).

## 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. Be a resource to 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.

Rice parents are needed to provide short-term (one to five days) 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 Karen McDonell, director of alumni programs, at [ksm8@rice.edu](mailto:ksm8@rice.edu) for more details.

## 6. Provide mentorship to Rice students through Sallyportal.

Rice recently launched a way for parents and alumni to connect with students – and each other – through Sallyportal, an online professional development hub dedicated exclusively to the Rice community. With Sallyportal, parents have the opportunity to make a direct impact on the future of a student or recent graduate by providing mentorship or career opportunities. All participants can explore these opportunities and network with professionals across a range of fields and

industries. Join Sallyportal to volunteer as a mentor or for access to professional development opportunities at [sallyportal.org](http://sallyportal.org).

## 7. Get involved with your regional group.

Parents of current Rice students are included in local alumni regional groups. Regional groups provide a way for parents, alumni 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 members of the Rice community around the nation and internationally. It's a great way to get involved in your local community!

## 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](http://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 opportunities 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 the university is doing. Parents are encouraged to "like" and share content from the Rice University Parents and Families Facebook page at [facebook.com/riceuparents](https://facebook.com/riceuparents). Interact with parents of current students by joining the Facebook group for Rice parents, by Rice parents at [facebook.com/groups/riceparents](https://facebook.com/groups/riceparents).

For more information and opportunities, visit [volunteer.rice.edu/opportunities-parents](http://volunteer.rice.edu/opportunities-parents).