Supporting Students ■ Connecting Alumni ■ Encouraging Excellence
The REA serves as a catalyst for beneficial collaboration and lifelong connections between alumni and the Brown School of Engineering by supporting students, facilitating interactions among alumni, student, faculty and staff, and encouraging excellence.

Outgoing President’s Message
Following the REA’s 75th anniversary year, it is clear the George R. Brown School of Engineering has come a long way. Now with nine departments, the school continues to keep pace with and, in some instances, set the pace for Rice’s growth. There were 1,352 junior and senior undergraduates majoring in engineering during the 2013–2014 academic year, up from 787 in the 2000–2001 academic year — an increase of 72 percent!

All of these new engineers and new engineering departments need support, and REA has continued to provide resources to reach their goals. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the REA raised more than $70,000 this year to support student grants and awards, design projects, the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen and a variety of events for the Rice engineering community. We are deeply grateful to all REA members who volunteered and served at various events.

I ask all REA members to consider how you can participate in the Rice engineering community, such as by attending an REA event in your area, volunteering at an engineering competition, serving on an REA committee or the board of directors, or by making a donation to REA. You are the REA, and you are vital to the future success of Rice engineering.

Sincerely,

Ted Oldham, ME ’90
2013-2014 President, Rice Engineering Alumni

Incoming President’s Message
Welcome to REA. It is my great honor to serve as your president for 2014–2015. Coming off a record-setting fundraising year, REA is in an excellent position to fund even more student projects and awards than ever before. One of the special features of serving on the REA board of directors is that we get to have a direct impact on students, in real time, by supporting their projects or funding new equipment … no bureaucracy and no hassle.

Each of the past four years the board has added new elements to REA. This year, we are seeking to get more alumni engaged in student activities as mentors — such as through the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen and OwlSpark — and as judges in student competitions. We are reaching out to alumni as never before to serve on one of several REA committees as a marvelous way to deepen their engagement with Rice engineering.

We have an impressive board of directors, including six new directors with Rice degrees ranging from 1975 to 2012 and from bachelor’s to Ph.D.s. It should be a terrific year!

Thank you for your interest in and continued support of your Rice Engineering Alumni organization.

Sincerely,

Michael Evans, ME ’65
2014-2015 President, Rice Engineering Alumni
Supporting Students

Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen

For 2013–2014, REA provided more than $25,000 to the OEDK in three principal areas:

- **Senior Design Team**: REA helped fund Team BoxyClean, a student design team developing a low cost, transportable medical sterilization unit contained within a standard 20-foot shipping container. The team focused on low energy costs, affordability and maintenance when deployed at an off-grid medical facility.

- **Freshman Design Prize**: REA funded the prize for Excellence in Freshman Engineering Design, awarded at the Engineering Design Showcase in April 2014 to the best project by a freshman design team. The prize went to Team Rack City for its high-capacity bicycle rack for Houston Metro buses.

- **Capital Support**: REA funded the purchase of a much-needed table saw for working on large projects.

Student Project Grant Program

REA provided $5,500 in grants for student-led engineering projects outside the classroom. The following are some of the projects that received our support: **Rice Engineers Without Borders** built a 6.8 km water system in El Salvador to deliver water to more than 1,000 people in four communities. The **Rice Robotics Club** competed in the Vex-U Robotics Competition World Championship in Anaheim, California, finishing 19th (top 5 for U.S. teams). The **Rice Computer Science Club** hosted the HackRICE hackathon, with 180 participants working in teams to create novel applications and software. The **Rice Center for Engineering Leadership** reached out to the Houston community with a K–12 STEM Magic Show designed to encourage future STEM leaders. A **material sciences student group** developed a 3D printer to fabricate a complete lithium ion battery, and the **Rice Seismic Design Team** competed in the 2014 Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition in Anchorage, Alaska. For a complete list of projects, see [alumni.rice.edu/rea/grant-program](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/grant-program).

Awards and Scholarships

REA manages a number of financial awards and scholarships that are funded with permanent endowments. At the REA/School of Engineering End-of-Year Picnic in April 2014, we presented more than 40 awards and scholarships totaling more than $112,000 to outstanding engineering students. These include departmental awards for academic merit; awards for leadership, research and service; and other designated named awards. A full list of scholarship winners is available at [alumni.rice.edu/rea/scholarships](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/scholarships).

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### 2013-2014 REA Sponsorship

- **$73,800** Total dollars donated to REA in 2013–2014.
- **86%** Increase in REA sponsorship over last year.
- **246** Number of donors, including corporations and foundations.
REA Chapter Programs in 2013-2014

Austin: In its third year, REA Austin braved the heat of summer to help build a house for Habitat for Humanity and continued its tradition of providing Rice judges for the Austin Energy Regional Science Festival. In September 2014, REA Austin partnered with two other Rice groups to host a behind-the-scenes look at the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen and get a sneak peak of some of the breakthrough inventions being developed there by Rice engineering students. For upcoming Austin events, visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/austin.

Dallas–Fort Worth (DFW): After its successful launch at Texas Instruments in April 2013, REA–DFW held a sold-out social mixer at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science and partnered with the local School of Science and Engineering Magnet to sponsor and judge an OEDK-style design challenge for high school students. For upcoming DFW events, visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/DFW.

San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA): After its successful launch in Palo Alto in May 2013, REA–SFBA held events in Redwood City (summer happy hour), San Francisco (Bulls hockey game) and Mountain View (a private tour of the Computer History Museum). Join us Nov. 11, 2014, for an evening with Dean of Engineering Ned Thomas, who will share his vision for the Brown School of Engineering. For upcoming SFBA events, visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/SFBA.

Boston Area: Plans for 2014–2015 include events in each chapter, as well as special programs in other cities. For Boston area alumni, join us Dec. 1 for an evening with Dean Ned Thomas (see back cover).

We welcome volunteers for the chapter steering teams and applications for the board of directors. A volunteer steering team leads each chapter, and one or two volunteers from each team also serve on the REA board of directors. Please contact Dan Stypa, associate director of alumni engagement, at stypa@rice.edu for more information.

Become an REA Sponsor Today

Every alumnus or alumna who has a degree from one of the departments of the Brown School of Engineering is a member of REA. Sponsors are the lifeblood of REA — your contributions make REA’s grants, awards and other programs possible. Visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/support-rea to initiate or renew your sponsorship for 2014–2015. Please make sure to designate your gift for Rice Engineering Alumni (GF60).

For questions about REA sponsorship, or if you are interested in making a gift, contact Sara Lillehaugen Rice, director of development–team lead for the School of Engineering, at sdl@rice.edu.

REA 75th Anniversary: A Smashing Success!

In Fall 2013, in celebration of REA’s 75th anniversary, an anonymous donor challenged REA to engage 75 alumni as sponsors of REA. Our alumni responded, with 130 sponsors enrolling by the end of 2013 and 246 sponsors by the end of 2013–2014. With this record number of sponsors, REA was able to dramatically expand its support of the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen.

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Encouraging Excellence

RE A and the School of Engineering recognize exemplary engineering alumni in three principal categories: outstanding engineering alumnus, outstanding young engineering alumnus, and the distinguished service medal. This year, REA will present two of these awards. Please join us on Friday, Nov. 7, during Rice Homecoming & Reunion, for the 2014 Alumni Honors Presentation and Reception. Learn more at alumni.rice.edu/rea/alumni-honors.

2014 REA Honorees

Outstanding Engineering Alumna

Sandra K. Johnson  Ph.D. EE ’88

Sandra Johnson is a global technology leader, author, community builder and orator. For more than 25 years, she has been an expert in software, information technology and computing. Along the way, she was named as an IEEE Fellow, ACM Distinguished Engineer, and Master Inventor and was selected into the IBM Academy of Technology, which consists of the top one percent of IBM’s 250,000 technical employees. In addition to winning numerous technical and professional awards, Johnson has 40 patents filed and has co-authored more than 80 publications. Her published works include “Performance Tuning for Linux Servers,” “Inspirational Nuggets,” “Inspirational Nuggets Too,” and “GREGORY: The Life of a Lupus Warrior.” Johnson earned her B.S. from Southern Methodist University, her M.S. from Stanford University and her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Rice. She is the first African-American woman in the United States to earn a Ph.D. in her field.

Outstanding Young Engineering Alumnus

Rakesh Agrawal  ME ’98, CS ’98

Rakesh Agrawal is the founder and CEO of the television search company SnapStream Media. Founded in 2000, SnapStream is a Houston-based software company focused on solving the problem of searching TV content. SnapStream provides its customers with the ability to record, monitor local and national TV channels, and search for TV clips by keyword. SnapStream’s customers include The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Colbert Report and the U.S. Senate. Agrawal continues to advance the next generation of SnapStream’s video technology and guide the company with expertise in software development, hardware solutions and industry-specific workflows.

“REA keeps me updated with all the great opportunities in the School of Engineering — I almost wish I was a student again! I am excited about my connections to Rice, fellow alumni, students and faculty.”

— Carrie Anne Braun ’07, Tuscon, AZ, Statistics
Upcoming Events

2014 Alumni Honors Presentation and Reception
Friday, Nov. 7, 2014
McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall, Rice University
alumni.rice.edu/rea/alumni-honors

SFBA Chapter: A Visit with the Dean
“P4: Progress, Plans, New People and Programs in the School of Engineering”
Ned Thomas, Dean of Engineering
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014
Palo Alto, CA
alumni.rice.edu/rea/SFBA

ROLM Corporation Retrospective
Featuring Katherine Maxfield, author of “Starting Up Silicon Valley: How ROLM Became a Cultural Icon and Fortune 500 Company”
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014
McMurtry Auditorium, Duncan Hall, Rice University
alumni.rice.edu/rea/rolm

Boston Special Event: A Visit with the Dean
“P4: Progress, Plans, New People and Programs in the School of Engineering”
Ned Thomas, Dean of Engineering
Monday, Dec. 1, 2014
Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, MA
alumni.rice.edu/rea/regional-programs

Houston: Fall Social and Faculty Address
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014
Saint Arnold Brewery, Houston, TX
alumni.rice.edu/rea/Houston-Social-Events

Save the Date

Austin Chapter: Austin Energy Regional Science Festival
February 18–21, 2015
Palmer Events Center, Austin, TX
alumni.rice.edu/rea/austin

REA / School of Engineering 2015 End-of-Year Picnic
Saturday, April 18, 2015
Engineering Quadrangle, Rice University
alumni.rice.edu/rea/picnic

Please check the alumni events calendar at alumni.rice.edu/events for the latest updates.