Supporting Students  ■  Connecting Alumni  ■  Encouraging Excellence
The REA serves as a lifelong connection between Rice engineering alumni and the George R. Brown School of Engineering through supporting students and the school, connecting and collaborating with alumni, and encouraging lifelong excellence.

Outgoing President’s Message

After another extremely successful year for the REA, I am excited to turn over the reins to our very capable and energetic new president and board. I am grateful to the board, the Alumni Relations staff, Dean Thomas and the School of Engineering staff who have provided such great support to make all of this happen.

We had many highlights in FY2014–15. For the first time ever we had non-board members serving on REA committees (which, incidentally, is where the real work of the REA gets done). We reached an all-time high of 327 sponsors, which included many recent graduates and other first-time sponsors. Total sponsorships exceeded $67,000, which allowed us to provide grants to two new Rice programs: $5,000 to OwlSpark to support prototyping costs and $30,000 (over two years) to RCEL to fund a station of the Leadership Reaction Course to be constructed in 2016.

Our alumni continued to stay active in on-campus student activities by serving as mentors (through programs such as RCEL, OEDK and OwlSpark) and as judges in various student competitions. I encourage all of you to join the fun and share the inspiration of what our Rice engineering students are creating. You will be amazed by and proud of where your sponsorship dollars are going.

Thank you all who have so generously supported the REA with both your time and your sponsorship dollars. The REA mission of supporting students, connecting alumni and encouraging excellence has been well served this year.

With thanks and gratitude,

Michael Evans, ME ’65
FY2014–15 President, Rice Engineering Alumni

Incoming President’s Message

It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as the president of the Rice Engineering Alumni for FY2015–16. Following another outstanding year of participation and support by you, our fellow members, the REA has continued to drive our mission forward by supporting students, connecting alumni and encouraging excellence.

The REA has supported students through our active sponsorship and mentoring of OEDK project teams, investing in the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, mentoring teams for OwlSpark, and, in partnership with the School of Engineering, providing more than $150,000 in grants and scholarships. Each of these activities has given many alumni the opportunity to connect with current students and to stay active with the university staff and broader Rice community. We thank you for your support of these important programs to grow the next generation of engineers from Rice.

We have a great group of alumni who serve as your board of directors, and we have seven new members who have joined us for FY2015–16. I am proud to be a part of this team, and I am thankful to each of them for their choice to be a part of the board with their four years of service.

We have many events planned that will continue to support students and actively engage alumni. I ask you to consider how you can bring your talents to the Rice community, either through volunteering at an engineering competition, mentoring a project team, attending one of our social events or making a donation to the REA. All members are welcome and encouraged to actively be a part of Rice’s engineering future. With your support, FY2015–16 will be an exceptional year!

Sincerely,

Wendy Hoenig, MSCI ’86
FY2015–16 President, Rice Engineering Alumni

Cover: Bioengineering graduate Alexa Juarez ’14 shows off a neonatal tube-feeding device that she and fellow members of Team Nutriflow helped design in the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen. Last year, she received a Global Futures Fellowship to continue her work in the OEDK and to field-test medical devices in developing countries. Visit http://bit.ly/1MRFWdv to discover why her engineering journey could only happen at Rice.
Sponsorships

We achieved our largest number of sponsors yet! Over the past five years, REA sponsors have steadily risen, reaching a new record number this year of 327 sponsors. The direct support provided by our sponsors allows the REA to fund student projects, support grants and awards, and make other endeavors possible.

FY2015 REA Sponsorship Use of Funds

Fiscal year was July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015

$67,100 Total dollars donated to REA in 2014–2015.

33% Increase in REA sponsorship over last year.

327 Number of donors, including corporations and foundations.

Become an REA Sponsor Today

Every Rice alumnus and alumna with a degree from the George R. Brown School of Engineering is automatically a member of the REA, although not every member becomes an REA Sponsor. Sponsorship is the lifeblood of the REA — it’s what drives all the other endeavors and programs mentioned in this report. Visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/support-rea to initiate or renew your sponsorship for FY2015–16. Please designate your gift for Rice Engineering Alumni (GF60).

For questions about REA sponsorship, or if you are interested in making a gift, please contact Sara Lillehaugen Rice, director of development for the School of Engineering, at slrice@rice.edu.
Supporting Students

Awards and Scholarships

The REA manages a number of financial awards and scholarships that are funded with permanent endowments. In partnership with the School of Engineering, the REA presented 38 awards at the end-of-year picnic in April, totaling more than $154,000. These include departmental awards for academic merit; awards for leadership, research and service; awards for outstanding engineering students; and other designated named awards. A full list of winners is available at alumni.rice.edu/rea/scholarships.

Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (oedk.rice.edu)

Entering its 7th year, the OEDK has become the hub of undergraduate engineering activity for more than 1,000 students and 130 teams this past year. The REA has proudly supported the OEDK through sponsoring design teams and through our members’ personal contributions of time and talent. In FY2014–15, the REA provided $5,000 for general support and $10,000 in two specific areas:

- **Senior Design Team**: The REA provided funding for Team IncuBaby to develop a low-cost, reliable neonatal incubator. Their challenge was to prevent neonatal hypothermia in the developing world, stopping the dangerous health conditions that compound from this illness. Their innovative design won 1st place in the Houston Global Health Conference. Learn more at http://youtu.be/0VaYNRd7NA4.
- **Showcase Design Prize**: The REA funded an OEDK Design Showcase design prize this past April. Team RiceX won the prize for its custom hybrid rocket motor design.

OwlSpark (owlspark.com)

Founded in 2013, the OwlSpark program allows Rice students, faculty, staff and recent alumni to launch companies based on their innovative business ideas. During twelve weeks over the summer, startup teams have access to co-working space in the Texas Medical Center Accelerator (TMCx) and are mentored by experienced entrepreneurs and industry professionals.

- **Prototype Fund**: The REA contributed $5,000 to OwlSpark’s prototype fund, allowing entrepreneurs to take innovations and ideas from concept to demonstration. Using small grants and an emphasis on low-cost iterative experimentation, startup teams perform research, test core assumptions and explore multiple design options before building out their entire product.

“When we looked at incubators in the developed world, we saw devices that were great but cost about $35,000 for a doctor. We were able to create a device that cost about $250 to make ... for something that can easily be translatable in a low-resource setting. Definitely making a global impact and accessibility is what makes this exciting.”

— Carissa Livingston BIOE ’15, Team Incubaby
For the past two years, RCEL Executive Director Kaz Karwowski has led the program to educate and develop Rice engineers to become inspiring leaders, exceptional team members and bold entrepreneurs. The RCEL program’s impact is seen when their students take on leadership roles with student groups and team and club activities, as well as after graduation, in industry.

- **Leadership Reaction Course**: The REA is funding a two-year, $30,000 commitment towards the construction of a set of outdoor physical challenges designed to teach individual leadership and to build trust.

## Student Grants

The REA provided a record $6,900 in grants for student-led engineering projects outside the classroom. The following are some of the projects that received our support. For a complete list, visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/grant-program](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/grant-program).

- **Rice Code College**: Taught Houston middle-school students the fundamentals of computer programming on Pi Day (3.14.15).
- **Rice Concrete Canoe**: Built a concrete canoe, placing 7th overall in the regional bracket of the National Concrete Canoe Competition.
- **Rice Seismic Design Team**: Built a stable multi-story building model, placing 9th overall at Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition.
- **RiceX**: Successfully prototyped a small-scale, hybrid rocket motor, with plans to scale to a larger rocket and compete in the Intercollegiate Rocket Engineering Competition.
- **Rice Aerospace Club**: Also known as Team Runway Boys, the club designed, built and flew a radio-controlled airplane, placing 29th overall at American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Design Competition.
- **ParkIT**: A student-run startup that is building a system to detect open parking spaces with computer vision.
Connecting Alumni

REA Chapter Programs in 2014–15

**Austin:** The REA Austin chapter kicked off in September with a special insider’s look at the OEDK, featuring remarks from OEDK Director Maria Oden and Associate Dean Ann Saterbak. The chapter paid a visit to the Austin Tech Shop in the spring and is planning its 3rd annual Habitat for Humanity build this fall. Javier Prado, EE ’79 MEE ’80 currently leads the Austin chapter. Visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/austin](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/austin) for more details.

**Dallas–Fort Worth (DFW):** The REA DFW chapter’s signature event was a visit from Kaz Karwowski, executive director of the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, in May 2015. Davy Ho, EE ’03 currently leads the DFW chapter. Visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/DFW](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/DFW).

**San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA):** The REA SFBA chapter welcomed Dean of Engineering Ned Thomas in November for an overview of and vision for the School of Engineering. In March, the chapter sponsored a private tour of the Tesla Motors factory, selling out within hours of being announced. Jeff Caves, ME ’00 and Duo Wu, CAAM ’12 currently lead the SFBA chapter. Visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/SFBA](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/SFBA).

**Houston:** For Houston-area alumni, the REA continued its popular social traditions, including a football tailgate in October, the Fall Social and Faculty Address in December at the Saint Arnold Brewery and a baseball tailgate in February. The REA reached out to students and local alumni at its popular Engineer Your Career program in January and at the end-of-year Spring Picnic in April. Visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events).

**Boston:** In December, the REA hosted Dean of Engineering Ned Thomas in Boston for an overview of and vision for the School of Engineering.

Visit [alumni.rice.edu/rea/regional-programs](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/regional-programs) for REA events across the nation.

### Upcoming Events

**Nov. 13, 2015**  
Alumni Honors Presentation and Reception  
Hudspeth Auditorium in the Anderson–Clarke Center  
[alumni.rice.edu/rea/alumni-honors](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/alumni-honors)

**Dec. 2, 2015**  
REA Fall Social  
Saint Arnold Brewery, Houston, TX  
[alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events)

**April 16, 2016**  
REA/School of Engineering End-of-Year Picnic  
Engineering Quadrangle, Rice University  
[alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea/houston-events)

Discover REA members across the world at [alumni.rice.edu/rea](http://alumni.rice.edu/rea).
The REA and the School of Engineering recognize exemplary engineering alumni in three principal categories: the Distinguished Service Medal, Outstanding Engineering Alumnus/Alumna and Outstanding Young Engineering Alumnus/Alumna. This year, the REA will present all three awards. Please join us on Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, during Rice Homecoming & Reunion for the 2015 Alumni Honors Presentation and Reception. Learn more at alumni.rice.edu/rea/alumni-honors.

**Distinguished Service Medal**

John Doerr EE ’73, MSEE ’74
Ann Howland Doerr EE ’75, MSEE ’76

The Distinguished Service Medal is the School of Engineering’s highest award for alumni service and recognizes exceptionally meritorious service of visionary and foundational characters. Few individuals have had a greater impact in this regard than Ann and John Doerr. In 2009, the Doerrs provided the founding gift to establish the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership (RCEL), which has been successful in transforming Rice engineering education. In 2015, they expanded on this initiative to establish the Doerr Institute for New Leaders at Rice, with the goal to train every student to become an effective leader. The Doerrs’ generous commitments to Rice have supported the university’s quest to provide unsurpassed teaching and contribute to the betterment of our world.

**Outstanding Engineering Alumnus**

Jeff Taylor EnvE ’80

Jeff Taylor is a highly accomplished and respected city planner and leader in the field of water management. For more than 30 years, Taylor has been integral in the management of Texas’ water resources. Currently with the firm Freese and Nichols Inc., he previously served as deputy director of public utilities for the city of Houston. As deputy director, he was responsible for planning, operations and maintenance of the metropolitan’s water and wastewater systems and for managing a staff of 1,400 with an annual budget of $500 million. With his professional expertise in the fields of hydrology, groundwater management and water rights, Taylor has been instrumental in the development of governmental policy and regulations, while serving on numerous state and national water committees. His exemplary personal and professional leadership make him a worthy recipient of the Outstanding Engineering Alumnus Award.

**Outstanding Young Engineering Alumna**

Elle Lewis Anderson CivE ’01

Elle Anderson co-founded the hydrology firm Grounds Anderson LLC, which undertakes projects such as flood hazard mapping, drainage studies and FEMA map revisions. She has had a guiding hand in the Houston area’s water management and recently headed the Harris County Flood Control District study to develop accurate digital terrain data. As she explains, “We are trying to play a part in keeping millions of people in the region reasonably safe from the threat of flooding.” Anderson further serves her community by fostering alumni engagement in engineering, supporting Rice Athletics and fundraising for her class reunion. In addition, she was named the 2006 Texas Special Olympics Volunteer of the Year. Her drive, ethics, social responsibility and professional achievements are well deserving of the Outstanding Young Engineering Alumna award.
In this report: Hear from the incoming and outgoing REA presidents, discover how your sponsorship is having an impact on students and alumni, save the dates for upcoming REA events, and see who is being honored at the 2015 Alumni Honors Presentation and Reception Nov. 13.

Become an REA Sponsor Today

Sponsorship is the lifeblood of the Rice Engineering Alumni and provides important support for everything from student leadership and entrepreneurship to regional programming and alumni engagement. Explore the many ways your sponsorship makes an impact in this report, and visit alumni.rice.edu/rea/support-rea to initiate or renew your sponsorship for FY2015–16.