



RICE | BUSINESS
PARTNERS

Connect. Inform. Inspire.

Welcome to the Rice Business Partners Newsletter



Action During COVID-19

Snacks For Med Staff is a Texas-based, women-led nonprofit with dual goals of supporting small business owners and boosting the morale of medical staff who are treating #COVID19 patients on the front lines. With dual goals of feeding the staff both mentally and physically, the team includes handwritten notes of community support with the meals they deliver. Using a GoFundMe Campaign to fundraise, Snacks For Med Staff also works to support small business at risk of shut down due to the quarantine guidelines in place.

The organization's first delivery was on March 20. They have raised over \$15,000 and served more than 2,100 meals to 23 hospitals in 5 states. While Houston has been the largest beneficiary – it's the team's home town and most of the donors reside in Houston –

Snacks For Med Staff also focused on the hardest-hit cities of New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.

Everyone on Snacks For Med Staff's team is a volunteer allowing 100% of the proceeds to go directly to the cause. The entire board are Rice graduate students from the MBA and Computer Science graduate programs making a difference in the community they love, operating the non-profit and solving real-live problems: Coco Ma, Kathy Harcourt, Eric Schumacker (Rice Business Partners student liaison for the professional MBA program), Lemboye Ayo-Vaughan, and Matthew Marand.

Thank you for your support!

Events

Upcoming Event

Virtual Programs

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Entrepreneurship in the COVID-19 Environment

Join a panel of three Rice Business alumni and longtime entrepreneurs share how they have adapted their businesses to fit the current environment.

RSVP



Aaron Knape '08

CEO & Co-Founder, sEATz



Chris Staffel '17

Founder, Staffel Capital LLC



Richard Degner '04

President & CEO
Geophysical Technology Inc.



Al Danto '00

Lecturer in Management -
Entrepreneurship, Jones Graduate School
of Business (*Moderator*)

Event Recap

Rice Business Partners Offers its First Virtual Program

On May 21, Rice Business Partners and Alumni Relations co-hosted their first webinar titled, “**Now What? Creating a Path Forward for Your Business**”.

Rice Business graduates Kimberly Denney (former Rice Business Partners Executive Committee member) and Lynn Lednicky (Rice Business Partners individual member) led the discussion. Over 70 people joined in to discuss leadership challenges in today’s COVID-19 environment including the best ways to keep organizations moving forward without getting bogged down in tactical details and how to move beyond stabilizing the business to future success and resiliency.



Rice Business Gives Back

On February 29, Rice Business hosted the Rice Business Gives Back day supporting Project C.U.R.E., Houston Food Bank, Adopt-A-Garden, and SIRE. Rice Business

Partners board members Chris Mersinger and Troy Matherne joined in the activities for Project C.U.R.E. - the world's largest distributor of donated medical relief dedicated to delivering life-saving medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and clinics throughout the under-resourced world.

Membership

Thank you to Rice Business Partners corporate members for their 20+ years of support and partnership:

JP Morgan: 23 years

TechnipFMC: 22 years

Oceaneering: 21 years

J.P.Morgan



**Welcome two new Rice Business Partners' corporate member:
DLA Piper**



DLA Piper's senior leadership team (left to right): Joe Alexander, Co-Chair of Americas Corporate Practice; Roger Meltzer, Global Co-Chair and Americas Co-Chair; George Mitchell, DLA Piper Consultant; Mark Catz, Dallas Office Managing Partner

DLA Piper is a global law firm with lawyers in more than 40 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific, positioning us to help clients with their legal needs around the world.

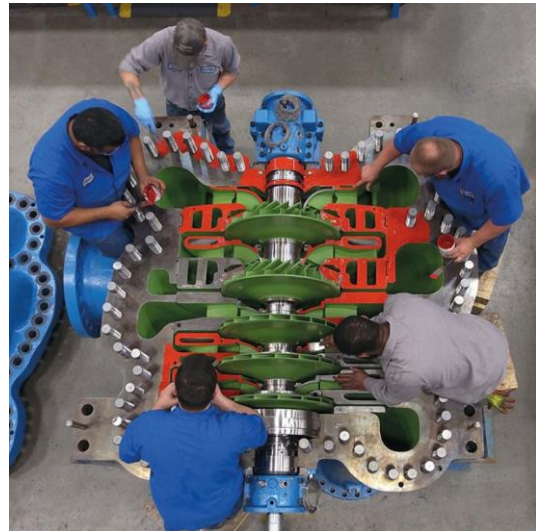
We strive to deliver quality and value to our clients through consistent, practical and innovative legal solutions across our core practice groups of corporate, employment, finance and projects, intellectual property and technology, litigation and regulatory, real estate, restructuring, and tax.

Our clients range from multinational, Global 1000, and Fortune 500 enterprises to emerging companies developing industry-leading technologies. They include more than half of the Fortune 250 and nearly half of the FTSE 350 or their subsidiaries.

As one of the largest providers of pro bono legal services in the world, DLA Piper is continually lauded for our efforts to give back to our communities, both domestically and globally. DLA Piper's unique nonprofit, New Perimeter, provides long-term pro bono legal assistance in under-served regions of the world to support access to justice, social and economic development and sound legal institutions. Our work on the sustainability agenda resulted in DLA Piper becoming one of the first in the legal sector to achieve global

accreditation to ISO:14001, the internationally recognized environmental management system that enables us to accurately measure and manage our carbon reduction strategies.

Sulzer



Sulzer became the most recent company to join Rice Business Partners as a member this year. Karen Barrios Buechel, Program Manager and Sr. Technical Advisor, is leading Sulzer's partnership with the Rice Business Partners group.

Sulzer is a global company and leader in fluid engineering. We specialize in pumping, agitation, mixing, separation and application technologies for fluids of all types. Our customers benefit from our commitment to innovation, performance and quality and from our responsive network of 180 world-class production facilities and service centers across the globe. Sulzer has been headquartered in Winterthur, Switzerland, since 1834. Throughout the Americas, Sulzer provides cutting-edge parts as well as maintenance and repair solutions for pumps, turbines, compressors, motors and generators. We service our own original equipment as well as third-party rotating equipment operated by our customers. Our technology-based solutions maximize reliability and lifecycle cost

effectiveness and we are continuously looking into new technologies, such as Additive Manufacturing and VR to enhance our services.

Sulzer has a legacy of supporting the communities it serves. Sulzer was recently recognized for their outstanding participation, leadership and contribution to the local community by the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce. Since 1985, Sulzer has been an integral part of the local community providing jobs and helping non-profit organizations, schools and the community. In 1994, Sulzer launched its annual Hack Attack charity golf tournament for its customers and partners. The Hack Attack raises money for Today's Harbor for Children, a local charity that provides safe and caring home for children in crisis. To date, that annual tournament has raised over two million dollars for this worthwhile cause. Sulzer also collaborates with academic institutions to attract talented students for our engineering internship program. This program facilitates experienced engineers to work closely with young engineers in innovative ways.

More than 42 companies currently support the Rice Business Partners and their initiative to open doors, increase collaboration and build ties between Rice Business and the Houston business community. [See all the sponsors.](#)

 [RB Partners Website](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [LinkedIn](#)



Copyright © 2020 Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University. All rights reserved.
[Privacy Notice](#) | [Update Email Preferences](#)