



RICE | BUSINESS  
PARTNERS

Connect. Inform. Inspire.

Welcome to the Rice Business Partners Newsletter



*Gray Stratton of DLA Piper introduces the joint DLA Piper/Ernst&Young Virtual Event held October 20, 2020*

## Continuing to Connect, Inform and Inspire

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Throughout the summer and fall, Rice Business Partners continued its Virtual Event series

hosting or co-hosting seven online events.

**Diverse topics spanned corporate initiatives and mandates:**

- ESG as a Framework for Resilience
- Something to Report: A Discussion on Corporate Compliance and Investigations

**Personal and professional growth:**

- How to be a Leader During Economic Downturns
- Fostering Employee Wellbeing and Engagement Amidst Uncertainty
- Surviving a Toxic Workplace

**Macro environment:**

- ExxonMobil's Perspective on Energy Markets
- The Future of the Global Supply Chain

Thank you for your participation and support this year. Rice Business Partners looks forward to bringing you more Virtual Events in 2021 and anticipates the return of our premiere Thought Leadership Series and Roundtables.

## Upcoming Virtual Events

### Thought Leadership Series

Wednesday, March 4, 2021 | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

#### Energy Revolution Expertise: The Next 100 Years

For the world to remain environmentally and economically viable, there needs to be a dynamic shift in how energy companies operate to ensure the supply of resources, address climate change and sustain their businesses.

Houston-based Occidental, which turned 100 in 2020, is at the forefront of this energy revolution. The company has committed to use its global leadership in carbon dioxide

management to advance a lower-carbon world. Occidental President and CEO Vicki Hollub joins Dean Peter Rodriguez to share her observations and insights on strategic sustainability and the energy transition.

Registration Coming Soon.

## Membership



**Thank you to Rice Business Partners Corporate members for their 10+ years of support and partnership:**

Stewart Title: 14 years

NOV: 14 years

ConocoPhillips: 13 years

Baylor College of Medicine: 13 years

Chevron: 12 years

Shell Oil: 11 years

## Welcome to the newest FY20/21 Corporate members:

Ara Partners  
Ayatis  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
Dril-Quip  
Gibson Dunn  
Granite  
Haynes and Boone  
Houlihan Lokey  
King & Spalding, LLP  
PNC Financial Services  
Southwest Energy  
Sulzer Turbo Services Houston

## On Campus

### **Kelly S. McGrath**

*Rice Business Partners Scholarship Recipient*

#### **Why did you choose Rice Business?**

I chose Rice because the network is like a family. Professors, students, and alumni want to help you every step of the way. I wanted a school that would be a challenge, but would allow me to truly invest in my future. Rice creates real-world practice whether that is the professors prior experience, the electives that help me delve into what I want to do after graduation, or even the global program that allows me to assist a company abroad. Not to mention Rice is a beautiful campus. I moved from Connecticut to Houston more than a year and a half ago and I love it here, so having a campus in the heart of a great city is definitely an added benefit.



**What are your goals after graduation?**

I came to business school for a career change. I have been in marketing for six years, mainly on the advertising and account side, and I want a new challenge. I know what I do not want to do, but I am using this time to figure out what I truly want to do. I want to work for a company where I can build value and be hands-on. I want to have the opportunity to wear many hats and continue to learn various roles so that I can grow throughout my career. In the end, I want to be a valuable asset to the company and see the company grow.

**What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

The accomplishment I am most proud of is helping with an ongoing problem that is present throughout the US, which is finding homes for abandoned dogs. I have been volunteering since high school. I volunteered throughout college, after graduation and now in Houston as well. No matter where I move to or how busy my schedule is, I commit to a local dog rescue. This involvement varies from volunteering at events, fundraising within my community, or even fostering the dogs myself.

**What is the fondest memory you've made at Rice so far?**

The fondest memory I have made at Rice so far is the number of amazing classmates I got to know very quickly. Shout out to section 3 especially! It has only been a month and I have become very close with some classmates that I can now call friends, but also bonded with the class as a whole. Despite the COVID times, we are making it work and if anything, it has made the bond even stronger.

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## Jason M Vanderbosch

*Rice Business Partners Membership Committee Student Liaison*

### **Why did you choose Rice Business?**

I chose Rice Business because of my deep desire to challenge myself and become a part of something greater. You are constantly told about how important our “network” is, but now I can tell you firsthand how incredible the Rice Business network truly is, being both familiar and extensive.

### **What are your goals after graduation?**

I’ve always been drawn towards entrepreneurship. I’d love to either start or acquire a business and really put everything I’ve learned to the test. I’ve also become increasingly interested in other channels of entrepreneurship like venture capital and startup ecosystems like incubators and accelerators. I’d also very much like to give back by offering mentorship or speaking to classes as many other alumni have.



### **What accomplishment are you most proud of?**

Honestly, getting into Rice and finding myself not only surviving but thriving is probably what I’m most proud of at the moment. I had wanted to get an MBA for years and after deciding to finally follow through with it I found nearly all my classmates had a similar combination of trepidation and ambition.

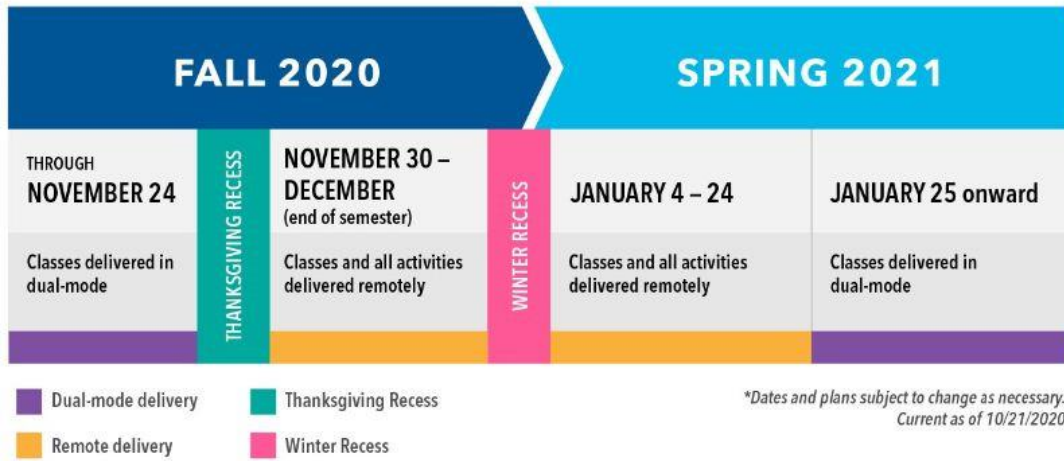
### **What is the fondest memory you’ve made at Rice so far?**

I think every alumni says something similar, but for me it’s a combination of those nights at Valhalla telling war stories about papers or finals and dreaming about what’s next. Rice did an amazing job at sculpting the cohort to such an extent that I consider many classmates true friends.

## A Note from Dean Rodriguez

Dear friends,

I wanted to share our winter and spring scheduling to keep you informed despite the distance. The campus-wide initiative to promote the health, safety and well-being of the Rice community requires us to close McNair Hall the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Beginning Wednesday, November 25, and through the end of calendar year 2020, all class sessions, exams, student services and activities will be delivered fully remotely. And all staff and faculty will work remotely.



At the university level, Rice’s overall operations and activities are focused on a physical return to campus by January 25, with necessary COVID testing prior to that to ensure students, faculty and staff are tested upon their return to Rice.

Our spring 2021 classes will proceed as scheduled after January 1 but all classes and activities prior to January 25 will be delivered fully remotely via Zoom. This is similar to our August remote start of classes that phased into dual delivery. We will continue to follow university guidelines on hybrid and remote schedules as they occur.

I hope the upcoming holiday season brings you together with family and friends. Stay well and grateful.

Best,

Peter Rodriguez  
Dean

## Special Recognition



Rice Business Partners would like to congratulate Board Member Sharon Beemer on her “Women Who Mean Business” award from the Houston Business Journal and “Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Oil and Gas” award from the National Diversity Council.

Sharon most recently was Vice President for DCP Midstream (NYSE: DCP), a Fortune 500 natural gas company dedicated to meeting the energy and consumer needs in our society. She currently serves on the Rice Business Partners Programs & Events Committee and we are honored to work with her.

## Rice Business Resources



### Recruit@RiceBusiness

You can support our efforts to help MBA students find internships and full-time positions. Post a job. Share on social. Host an info session about your company. Learn more [here](#).



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