



# RICE ALUMNI

## Alumni Information Sheet

### Areas of Volunteer Interest (check all that apply)

- ☒ ARA Board
- ☒ ARA Committees
- ☒ Homecoming/Reunion
- ☐ Regional Groups

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Van Johnson (Full name: Charles Vandigriff Johnson, Jr.)  
Address: 2781 Stonesmith Court  
City/State/ZIP: Tucker, GA 30084  
Email: van@leppardjohnson.com

### DEGREES EARNED

Institution	Degree	Year
Rice University	B.A.	1974
Rice University	M.M.E.	1975

Employer: Leppard Johnson & Associates, P.C. Position: Founder & President  
Address: 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 750 City/State/ZIP: Tucker, GA 30084  
Phone Numbers: Home (770)493-6984 Office (770)270-1588 Fax (770)270-9588  
Name of Spouse: (if applicable) Terri

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Briefly describe your occupation or business:

Van joined the consulting engineering profession immediately upon graduation. After 10 years with I.A. Naman + Associates, Consulting Engineers, in Houston, Van relocated to Atlanta, and after 10 additional years of experience in building systems engineering, established C.V. Johnson and Associates, P.C., in 1995. Van is now President of Leppard Johnson & Associates, P.C., a consulting engineering firm specializing in mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and communications systems for buildings. Van is registered as a professional engineer in 31 states.

Tell us about your student activities at Rice:

While a student at Rice, Van served on the Wiess College Cabinet for a total of 3 years, as Freshman Representative, Sophomore Representative, and as Secretary.

How have you been involved with Rice since graduation?

Van has been a regular contributor to the Annual Fund. During his time in Atlanta, Van has been a tireless recruiter of high school students to attend Rice, and has for 3 years been a volunteer admissions interviewer for the Office of Admissions.

Are you involved with other community or professional groups?

Van was a Cub Scout Leader for 8 years, a Boy Scout Leader for 7 more years including 2 years as Troop Committee Chairman. Van has served as Secretary, Treasurer, and President of the Atlant Chapter of ASHRAE as well as in various capacities within ASHRAE at the National level.

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**OPTIONAL PERSONAL STATEMENT** *(recommended for board candidates)*

My personal experience at Rice University was similar to that of most incoming freshmen, recognizing the difficult transition from exceptional high school student to a peer among peers in a completely transformed and very challenging environment, then adjusting to it. This experience is not peculiar to Rice.

This single aspect of my college experience was more educational than any subject matter that I eventually covered and mastered. While not an education professional, I have volunteered in an advisory role to students in the high school which my children attend (one has already graduated). Those who have left for college are finding the same thing out that I did regardless of their institution, and I am grateful to be able to help them deal with it even after they have left home and moved on.

More revealing, though, is the perception that exceptional high school students have of Rice, at least those I encounter. Being a Texas native, Rice was always to me THE one and only place to study. Probably because Georgia and the Southeast have some excellent universities, the students I encounter do not share my perception of Rice. I find myself asking, "Is the word just not getting to these students? Are we not getting the message to the high school counselors? In what direction are exceptional students being pointed and why?" Similarly, I find from my experience interviewing high school senior applicants that as a rule, Rice is not their first choice, but more an afterthought.

If elected to the Association of Rice Alumni Board, one of my missions as a non-local member of the Board would be to work in coordination with the Office of Admissions to be a more effective promoter of Rice University, and to make better known the quality of student life in which Rice is rich.

If as a product of this mission, I am able to further the education and career of Atlanta area students, I will be satisfied that I have served the University well.

Please return form by mail to:     Rose Sundin  
Associate Director  
Rice University  
Office of Alumni Affairs — MS 520  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892  
or by fax to:     713-348-5210  
phone:     713-348-4678 or 800-742-3258  
email:     sundin@rice.edu

For Office Use Only:

9/08

*date submitted*

DAN STEINER

*nominator*