

**ASSOCIATION OF RICE ALUMNI
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee ALAN SHELBY Phone 713-465-8763 Fax _____
Address 3 CALLIE CT
City/State/Zip HOUSTON TX 77024-6948 Rice Class Year(s) _____
Degrees/Majors/Years/Institutions _____
Occupation/Professional Field _____
Current Title/Position _____

The Meritorious Service Award is designed to recognize Rice alumni, faculty, staff, or friends who rendered significant, sustained voluntary contributions of energy, time, and creativity towards the advancement of the university. The following criteria will be considered:

- a) enrichment of some aspect of the Rice community through ongoing dedication and support
- b) commitment to the lifelong vitality of the University

Please attach a letter of recommendation describing the merits of the nominee. Consider the following question in support of the above criteria: **Does this candidate exemplify someone who would be described as a tireless ambassador or emissary on Rice's behalf.**

Please note that incomplete nomination forms cannot be considered.

Nominated by KAREN HESS ROGERS '68 Phone 713-523-1815 Fax _____
Address 1802 W. BELL
City/State/Zip HOUSTON TX 77019

Please list two other people (i.e., colleague, classmate) whom you have asked to write a letter of support to further validate your nomination.

Name WAYNE GRAHAM Relationship _____
Address RICE ATHLETICS, MS-548 Phone 713-348-6022
Name KAREN OSTRUM GEORGE '77, '78 Relationship _____
Address 2328 RICE BLVD. HOUSTON TX 77005 Phone 713-523-6744
SUZANNE M. BOUE' '99
RICE ATHLETICS, MS-548 713-348-6954

Please return nomination material to:

or fax to: 713-348-5210

Office of Alumni Affairs – MS 520
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston TX 77251-1892

Karen Hess Rogers 1802 West Bell Houston, TX 77019

October 2, 2012

I am writing to nominate Alan Shelby for the Meritorious Service Award. Included is an interview I did with him about one year ago which gives some of the background information about how he came to be so passionate about Rice.

His really big contribution, which is explained in the interview, is a daily email newsletter and blog about Rice baseball and many other items of interest to Rice alumni and friends. This daily commitment represents a great deal of work, including research, by someone who is not an alumnus of the school and who still has a day job. Several people have told me that Alan's daily newsletter tells them all they need to know about Rice. It has really brought the Rice community together. Since the interview was conducted, he has added a few hundred more recipients to the RUBPA newsletter.

Other nominators will undoubtedly tell about his commitment to Rice athletics and his attendance at various contests. Another area of Alan's interest at Rice is the Rice Historical Society. He joined the board a year ago and has been faithful about attending board meetings and events. This year he helped recruit two wonderful new members for the board, neither of whom is a Rice alumna.

Alan has done more than most Rice alumni to bring the Rice family together. As is evident from the interview, he is amazingly modest about his contributions. It seems that someone who starts the day at 5:30 a.m. putting the final touches on an electronic newsletter about Rice deserves the Meritorious Service Award.

Alan Shelby Interview

Prior to running the first article about Alan Shelby's trivia questions for his Rice baseball "blog" in *The Cornerstone*, I interviewed him to find out how a University of Pennsylvania graduate got so involved with Rice athletics. When I contacted him, he immediately said, "Short answer: it's Karen George's fault." The longer answer follows.

Alan is a native of Houston and attended Longfellow Elementary School, Pershing Junior High School, and Bellaire High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Wharton School at Penn in 1973 and went to work for Chase in Manhattan. From 1974 to 1981, he worked in New York City, then Tokyo, and Hong Kong and eventually returned to New York. He met his wife Nancy at Chase in 1979 and they married in 1980. He returned to Houston in 1981 to work at Texas Commerce Bank. In 1987 he became self-employed, first in litigation support and currently as a consultant in real estate. Nancy continued to work in the banking industry until she quit two years ago to care for her brother who was ill. After his death, she became active in a number of volunteer positions including serving on the Alley Theatre Advisory Board and serving as president of Planned Giving.

Now for the part about Karen George: Nancy met Karen and Larry George separately while she was still in banking (sometime around 2000). The Georges figured out that Alan was a baseball fan who followed the Astros so they invited the Shelbys to some Rice baseball games and they were hooked! To a lesser degree, they also began to follow Rice basketball and football. When they first purchased Rice baseball season tickets they got the Family Pack, then graduated to Home Plate, and currently share a suite with Kyle Frazier at Reckling Park.

Alan enjoys the camaraderie of Rice fans, whether they are Rice alumni or not, and feels like they are all one big family. He enjoys sharing their love of sports and likes the image Rice projects to the community through athletics

About six years ago, Alan started a daily email newsletter with updates about Rice baseball, especially with news of former Rice players who had gone on to professional baseball careers (and jobs in other professions). He thought others might be interested so he started emailing a few people, starting with Karen and Larry George. Word spread and more and more people asked to be included.

The next big step happened about two years ago when the Rice Baseball Players Association, which had website, decided to join forces with Alan's daily email. Stephen Herce asked Alan to be part of the redesign of their website, creating an online version of the RUBPA. Alan had been considering transitioning from the email version of his updates to an online version which is easier to produce and correct. They hired Rice Web Services to work on the designed website and the plan was to put Alan's newsletter on the front page. When he announced that he was eliminating the email version, reactions were so negative that he still does the email version.

Alan does as much preparation of the daily update as he can the day before it's posted. Then he starts his day at 5:30 in the morning and usually has the update posted by 6:30. He sends these out every day except when he is out of town, sick, or is having computer problems.

Since the newsletter started appearing he has added other features, realizing that folks who follow Rice athletics also have other interests. He began covering other Rice sports and then went on to include events and news of non-athletic nature like the Shepherd School.

An interesting new addition has been selected obituaries of Rice alumni from around the country. He began posting notices he saw in the *Houston Chronicle* and then Jerry Sadler, who was active in the Lamar High School Alumni Association, offered to help track Rice alumni. After Jerry's death, Alan discovered a website that will send notices if an obituary mentions Rice University. This feature has elicited many positive comments from readers.

Alan also has added links to other blogs including Melissa Kean's Rice History Corner, Leonard Lane's blog about Texas courthouses, and Blair Henley and Michelle Moriarty's blogs.

He insists he does not do this work by himself, but relies on the help of others for stories and the trivia questions. Some of his contributors enjoy being mentioned and others insist on anonymity. The trivia questions, which run twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday, were inaugurated in an attempt to get readers to go to the end of the page. The interest really grew when Charlie Vaughters suggested running a leaderboard for correct answers.

I asked Alan if he had ever done anything like this before. He replied that when their children were in school, he was very active in their PTAs and about fifteen years ago decided to email the weekly schedules to parents – a really enterprising approach at that time!

Would you like to receive Alan's daily RUBPA emails? Just send him (adshelby@comcast.net) your name and email address and he will add you to the approximately 1,100 folks who hear from him every day.

October 3, 2012

To whom it may concern:

Alan Shelby is a true friend to Rice University. He works tirelessly as an ambassador for the University and Rice Athletics, sharing his daily Rice email updates and maintaining the website for the Rice University Baseball Players Association (RUBPA). I believe RUBPA has become the second largest official alumni group (only to the engineers) with the help of Alan's organization and leadership.

Alan's RUBPA email updates can be found in the inbox of over 4,000 Rice alumni, fans and friends every day by 7 am, 7 days a week. These emails include links to every story produced worldwide that day involving our Rice alums, and highlight each of our former student-athletes competing in professional baseball. With over 35 Rice alums playing on teams from the New York Yankees to the Elizabethtown Tennessee Twins, tracking their statistics and daily performances could be an all-day affair. Alan does all the work for our fans, delivering their news straight to your inbox, and perpetuating the care and enthusiasm for our Rice Owls long after they have left campus.

Rice University is an intimate community of support and respect. Because of Alan Shelby's work, distance and time never challenge this community. His dedication to the Owls, to Rice Athletics and Rice University enhance the relationships, interest and enthusiasm for many of our fans, friends and alumni and I believe he is truly deserving of the Meritorious Service Award presented by the ARA.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Graham
Head Baseball Coach, Rice University
713-348-6199

Karen Ostrum George
2328 Rice Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77005

October 7, 2012

Ms. Gloria Meckel Tarpley
Chair, Laureates Committee
Association of Rice Alumni

Dear Gloria:

I am very pleased and honored to support the nomination of Alan Shelby for the Association of Rice Alumni's Meritorious Service Award. This award recognizes "Rice alumni, faculty, staff or friends who rendered significant, sustained voluntary contributions of energy, time and creativity towards the advancement of the university." Alan fits this description perfectly.

I have to admit that I might be a little biased because it was I, along with my husband, who first introduced Alan and his wife Nancy to Rice when we started attending Rice baseball games together. Neither Alan (University of Pennsylvania) nor Nancy (Brown University) had Rice ties but they soon adopted our university. Alan was especially interested in baseball and he started a daily email newsletter that tracked former Rice players who had gone on to professional baseball. The content of the newsletter grew to include all aspects of Rice Athletics and later all aspects of Rice. Rather than try to describe the newsletter, I attach a recent one as reference. I would not be surprised if many members of the Laureates Committee are on the distribution list for Alan's email – it is believed to reach over 1000 people. In fact, it is well known that if you want a large group of Rice people to be notified of an upcoming event and if you want to maximize attendance you ask Alan to put it in his newsletter. He has helped publicize many student-athlete projects as well as official Owl Club or Women's Athletics Advisory Board events. Ralph O'Connor told me that Alan is the only person who publicizes the Rice Lacrosse team's games. In recognition of all that he has done to promote Rice athletics, Alan was awarded the Rice Athletic Spirit Award a few years ago.

Production of this newsletter is no small task. Alan has produced it for years, seven days a week except for the occasional holiday or vacation, and he has proven to be more dependable than the U.S. Post Office. If we don't get it by about 6:30 a.m. each morning we know Alan is probably having computer problems or we worry he might be sick! There is no doubt that his contributions of time and energy have been significant and sustained. Alan's thoughtful efforts to promote the activities of the university are notable in that he has introduced the athletic community to cultural and academic programs at Rice and the non-athletically inclined to the joy of college sports. He has also introduced many new people to Rice. At a business meeting the other day I mentioned to a Texas A&M alum that he should bring his daughter to a Rice volleyball game and offered to get him the schedule. He said "You don't need to; I can get it from Alan Shelby's email."

In addition to his newsletter, Alan has also facilitated several lectures on campus, bringing together those who read his newsletter and popular Rice speakers such as Professor Bill Martin or Rice Historian Melissa Kean. Because of his interest in Rice history, he recently joined the board of directors of the Rice Historical Society.

Again, it is my honor and privilege to support Alan's nomination. I think he is highly deserving of the ARA's Meritorious Service Award.

Sincerely,



Karen Ostrum George '77,'78

From: RUBPA (rubpa-l@mailman.rice.edu)
To: rubpa-l@mailman.rice.edu;
Date: Sat, October 6, 2012 6:02:02 AM
Cc:
Subject: [Rubpa-l] Rice Update, Saturday, 10/6/12

RICE UPDATE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012

FALL BALL:

Yesterday was practice only.

Today, the schedule is practice at 2 pm, intrasquad at around 3:15 pm and probable pitchers are Kubitza, Fox, Lemond, Stephens, McDowell and Spurlin.

Please note that all times are approximate. Also, the schedule is subject to change due to weather, etc., so you can double check by monitoring the Fall Ball [webpage](#) or by calling Lee Ann at 713 348-8864. Rosters are available [here](#).

A MESSAGE FROM VB CO-CAPTAIN LAURIE McNAMARA:

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2012 Dig Pink Campaign. This [campaign](#) is about more than volleyball or even the color pink – it's about using our sport as a tool to help raise awareness and support for those affected by breast cancer. I'm proud to be a Rice Owl and even more proud to be surrounded by such a supportive community of fans and friends. We hope you can join us tomorrow for our Dig Pink match when we take on Tulane at 1 pm at Tudor Fieldhouse. Again, thank you so much!

SELECTED RICE EVENTS THIS WEEK, October 1 - 7:

Friday-Sunday – W Tennis at Rice Invitational

Saturday-Sunday – M Tennis at USTA Invitational, Mansfield TX

Saturday (12 pm CT) – Swimming vs. [Kansas](#)

Saturday (6 pm CT) – Football at [Memphis](#) [GT](#) | TV: FCS | [Radio](#)

Sunday (1 pm CT) – Soccer vs. [East Carolina](#) [GT](#)

Sunday (1 pm CT) – Volleyball [Dig Pink Match](#) vs. [Tulane](#) [GT](#)

Sunday (1 pm CT) – Owl Club "Volunteering Together" [Information Session](#), Reckling Park

Sunday (2 pm CT) – Baseball Exhibition Game vs. UH [Cancelled](#)

RICE CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES (Thanks, Ann Peterson!):

Hear angel investor **Esther Dyson**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute president and physicist **Shirley Ann Jackson**, Pritzker Prize-winning architect **Rem Koolhaas**, Chief Justice of the United States **John G Roberts Jr** and **J Craig Venter**, founder, chairman and CEO of the J Craig Venter Institute. Lectures are October 10, 11 and 17. Admission is free but tickets are required. For more information on these and other events, click [here](#).

RICE FOOTBALL:

Gameday Central: [Rice](#) | [Memphis](#)

Houston Chronicle – [McHargue's return may come at opportune time](#)

Memphis Commercial Appeal – [Tigers seek fresh start with C-USA opener](#)

Nate Griffin – [Owls Feeling "Must-Win" Bug](#)

PTH – [The Rice Football Webletter](#)

MLB SCOREBOARD YESTERDAY:

No Owls in action.

2013 FIRST-YEAR PLAYER DRAFT:

Patrick Ebert – [Astros to pick No. 1 again in 2013](#)

TEXAS TECH BASEBALL:

Click [here](#) for Texas Tech's 2013 baseball schedule. Rice hosts the Red Raiders for a 2-game midweek set April 16-17.

RICE W TRACK:

RunnerSpace.com – [Video: Coach Jim Bevan on Secrets to Success](#)

RICE VOLLEYBALL:

Rice Owls – [Owls Sweep UTEP, Push C-USA Record To 5-1](#)

RICE SOCCER:

Rice Owls – [Owls Defeat Marshall 4-1](#)

RICE W TENNIS:

Rice Owls – [Beazant Splits Matches to End ITA Action](#)

COURSEA (Thanks, Guy Rollins!):

More people have [enrolled](#) in Rice's first free online course (54,000) than have ever graduated from the University (53,821).

SHEPHERD SCHOOL:

This weekend, the Shepherd School [offers](#) 2 Centennial Concerts. Admission is free and no ticket is required.

THOMAS CLINTON DUNN (1922 – 2012):

On September 26, Thomas Clinton Dunn passed away at the age of 90. A native Houstonian, he graduated from Rice in 1943 and from UT Law in 1949, with military service in WWII in between.. He practiced law with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. He "considered himself a fortunate man in the relatives and friends who enriched his long life." Click [here](#) for the Chronicle obituary.

RICE HISTORY CORNER:

Click [here](#) for ~~Melissa~~ Kean's latest blog entry entitled "Friday Afternoon Follies: Post-Chem Traumatic Syndrome".

TRIVIA LEADERBOARD:

After 70 questions (and 72 possible points), **Bob Reinhold** is in first place with 71 points and **Ann Bixby** and **John Wolda** are tied for second place with 70 points each. You can check out the Trivia Leaderboard (top ten plus ties) at the RUPBA [website](#)

Please visit the RUBPA [website](#) for the online Rice Update and more!

Suzanne M. Boué
Rice University Class of 1991
Assistant Athletic Director
Rice University Athletics
PO Box 1892 – MS 548
Houston, TX 77251-1892

September 30, 2011

Laureates Nominations
Office of Alumni Affairs — MS 520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Alan Shelby and his nomination for the Rice University Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Shelby, despite having no formal connection to Rice, enriches many aspects of the Rice community through his tireless dedication and support.

Mr. Shelby literally advocates for Rice University and its students and alumni on a daily basis. He produces and distributes the widely read RUBPA (Rice University Baseball Players Association) newsletter each day. This humble publication has reached thousands beyond its original intended audience. In fact, his daily updates were discussed at last week's ARA Board meeting as a "must-read" for anyone who is interested in Rice. He has managed to make his publication relevant to any audience engaged with this University, even outside athletics.

Alan has also been a willing and able partner in spreading messages from our student-athletes, alumni and the Athletic Department. His email, which is produced 7 days a week, nearly 365 days a year, brings links to stories regarding our current student-athletes and alumni and enthusiastically supports all things Rice. Again, Mr. Shelby did not graduate from Rice and has no reason to spend hours of his time on this endeavor, but he selflessly promotes and supports Rice in any way he can.

It is my honor to recommend Alan Shelby for the Meritorious Service Award for 2013. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Best Regards,

Suzanne M. Boué