

Rice Alumni Information Sheet

Areas of Volunteer Interest:

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

Contact Information

Name: David T. Freeman

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Degrees Earned:

Institution	Degree	Year
Rice University	BA, Managerial Studies	1991

Employer: Self: D&T Enterprises of Virginia Ltd. DBA Oaktree Property Care

Position: Owner

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Name of Spouse: Shana von Zeppelin

- ☒ I agree: For ARA Board applicants: I have read the ARA Board Member Responsibilities and understand that as an ARA Board member I would be required to fulfill all responsibilities as described, including giving every year to the Rice Annual Fund in accordance with my means.

Biographical Information:

Briefly describe your occupation or business:

I returned to Virginia after graduating from Rice and chose a somewhat unconventional path, perhaps *The Road Less Traveled*. While many of my friends chose to become doctors, lawyers or work for private equity firms, I decided to follow my passion, and run full time the company I had owned since high school, Oaktree Property Care. I am convinced that my Rice experience contributed to and bolstered my inclination to think about and pursue the unorthodox approach. It is my belief that Rice continues to encourage and nurture this unique approach to problem solving with its students today. Success ultimately is a subjective measure, and it is equally valid to seek a different road while tracking your dream. Simultaneously, I also engaged in a variety of other entrepreneurial pursuits: running beach volleyball tournaments; locating humidors and cigars in local cigar friendly establishments; and hosting cigar tastings and golf outings. My primary focus however was always Oaktree Property Care, a small to medium sized full service landscaping and lawn care company. We specialize in Residential Landscape maintenance and emphasize the practice of IPM, Integrated Pest Management, maximizing results while at the same time minimizing environmental impact.

Tell us about your student activities at Rice:

I was a member of the Rice Naval ROTC unit for 3 years at Rice, and played on the Rice Lads club soccer team at the same time. My senior year at Rice I decided to walk onto the Rice University Football team without having ever played a down. I made the team as a wide receiver, and thanks to Coach Goldsmith, I was able to play against Texas Tech and Northwestern. I also participated on a variety of intramural and Jones College sport teams, softball, Volleyball, soccer etc.

How have you been involved with Rice since graduation?

My post graduate involvement with Rice starts with attending Rice University sponsored receptions in Washington D.C. and making it to as many local alumni happy hours as possible. I have attended almost every Homecoming since graduation, especially the last 15 consecutive years. Somehow, I even managed the births of our three boys at beneficial times that would enable me to return to Houston. I have been a supporter of the Rice Lads and participant in the annual alumni soccer game held Homecoming weekend since graduation. I avail myself of my Jones College "advisory group" on a weekly basis, am a member of, and follow the Linked-in Rice Owls Current & Former Rice University

Student-Athletes Group, and have contributed as regularly to the Alumni Fund as circumstances have allowed.

Are you involved with other community or professional groups?

Participation in professional associations include: PGMS (Professional Grounds Management Society); PLANET (Professional Land Care Network) and VNLA (Virginia nursery and Landscape association). Due in part to a lack of satisfaction with the services and resources provided by the above associations, I am also a founding member of a Green industry small business round table. We meet every 2 months to discuss industry happenings, frequently encountered problems and our individual, often unique solutions. Our combined buying power, has enabled us to form beneficial strategic alliances with various suppliers in our industry from insurance to equipment to parts.

Optional personal statement:

In a word I love Rice University. I remember fondly the college system and the culture of community it fosters. I relish the experience compared to what friends and family encountered at their universities, from our unique TG's on Fridays, to the University's reputation and the respect it commands from clients and business people, and everything in between. I vacation with and return to Houston every year to spend time with the lifelong friends and invaluable "business advisors" (one and the same) that I had the fortune to meet for the first time back in 1986, thanks to Rice University.

As a father of three young boys I learn a little more every day that time is precious, and that being involved is critical if you wish to have a say in the things you hold most dear. Thankfully, at this point in my life, I have the ability to focus more of my time and attention toward Rice University with the ultimate goal of directly and positively impacting the alumni association. Rice University and the Rice "experience and friends" have been the single largest contributor to my business and educational development, and if the board feels I can be of assistance and give something back, it would be my honor to serve. As a serial and long time entrepreneur in a variety of fields with varying degrees of success, I would hope to bring a different perspective on everything from Financing to fundraising to alumni involvement. At this moment, I am envisioning a Rice Centennial Gift Owl complete with Centennial Rice Gear, Rice commemorative paraphernalia, a 22 oz bottle of each of the St Arnolds Centennial beers, all delivered to your door for \$100?

Respectfully submitted,

David Thomas Freeman

Rice University, Class of 1991