The alumni office is excited to report that a higher-than-industry average percentage of alumni responded to the survey sent out in February of 2012. Along with providing current information about geography, industry and years out of the program, alumni participants also gave detailed answers to open-ended questions, allowing us to gather valuable feedback. Most importantly, the survey provided guidance for action in the coming year.

The largest amount of input related to engagement. From demand for additional content-inspired events to adding more meaningful volunteer opportunities, alumni want to network, learn more and share their expertise. Alumni who responded to the survey want more events outside of Texas, more alumni-specific services from the Career Management Center, and — with 73 percent of alumni indicating that they are inclined to recommend the Jones School to a friend — want to spread the word.

We are inspired by our enthusiastic alumni and want to continue to make the Rice MBA relevant to them. Furthermore, we want to provide the tools needed to share the developments, accolades and accomplishments of the Jones School. With their help, we can do it. We’ve heard the suggestions, and below are initiatives for us in the new school year:

- A dedicated resource for alumni assistance in career development. Having an assistant director as a point person allows for specialized service and more efficient access to all the resources the CMC has to offer, including workshops, individual strategy sessions, resume guidance, and opportunities for networking and job skills improvement;
- Additional industry-specific content, beginning with the health care speaker series. These free public lectures with physicians, hospital administrators and legislators cover current issues in the industry;
- Collaboration with other departments and faculty at the Jones School to coordinate events in other cities, including Week on Wall Street, the annual trek for Jones School students to New York;
- Alumni sharing their expertise and experiences in the classroom. If you’re interested in participating, please contact Joy Brown Kirst jkirst@rice.edu or Josh DeMott demottj@rice.edu;
- The Alumni Relations Office for the Jones School is in the process of teaming up with the Association of Rice Alumni to create regional programming that Rice graduates can attend and use for networking purposes as well.

Alumni response from outside of Houston was strong. Geographic diversification may be a category in which we have the most room for improvement. Comments began with “build alumni network worldwide,” “expand nationally and internationally,” “more events in other major cities,” “better connect alumni outside the greater Houston region,” and “create active sub-organizations in major American cities.” Alumni Relations is exploring opportunities to expand programming.
With responses as candid as “give out-of-town alums a selfless reason to return, such as speaking to a class, judging a competition or participating in a strategic roundtable,” the Jones School wants to improve on programming by engaging faculty and alumni and combining “content-driven events” with industry and function specific networking, alumni panels and speaking engagements, and social events. Several upcoming events where we welcome alumni involvement or attendance include: Jones Partner’s Thought Leadership Series, Rice Energy Finance Summit, ongoing interviews through our JAVA program in admissions, Marketing Case Competition, Marketing Symposium and Rice Business Plan Competition.

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**RESPONDENTS BY INDUSTRY**

- Energy/Petroleum: 45%
- Financial Services: 20%
- Real Estate: 8%
- Consumer Products: 8%
- Health Care/Biotech/Pharma: 8%
- Other: 11%

**RESPONDENT STATISTICS**

- 70% graduated from the classes 2000-2011
- 52% want more alumni specific content
- 25% created a not-for-profit or business
- Homecoming was their favorite event.
- 61% take advantage of the alumni directory.
- 42% felt networking with alumni from Rice, the Jones School or other business schools was very important

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WE EXCEL AT DEVELOPING
PRINCIPLED
INNOVATIVE
THOUGHT LEADERS
IN GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.

2012 Programs

Jones Partners New Member Welcome Reception  8/29  6–8:00 pm  (AFC)

Round Table Series, Gustavo Grullon  9/12  11:30a–1:00 pm  (McNair Hall, Rm 217)

Thought Leadership Series
Jim Turley & Karen Nelson  9/18  6–8:30 pm  (Shell Auditorium/AFC)

Breakfast Series, John “Kim” Kehoe  9/27  7–8:30 am  (AFC)

10th Anniversary McNair Hall Celebration and Reunion Partio  10/13  4:30–7:00 pm  (AFC/Shell Auditorium)

Thought Leadership Series
Robert Foye & Vikas Mittal  10/29  6–8:30 pm  (Shell Auditorium/AFC)

Rice Energy Finance Summit  11/1  8a–5:00 pm  (AFC/Shell Auditorium)

Thought Leadership Series
Anne McEntee & Michael Grojean  11/14  6–8:30 pm  (Shell Auditorium/AFC)