



MOMENTUM

2014–15 Owl Club Impact Report



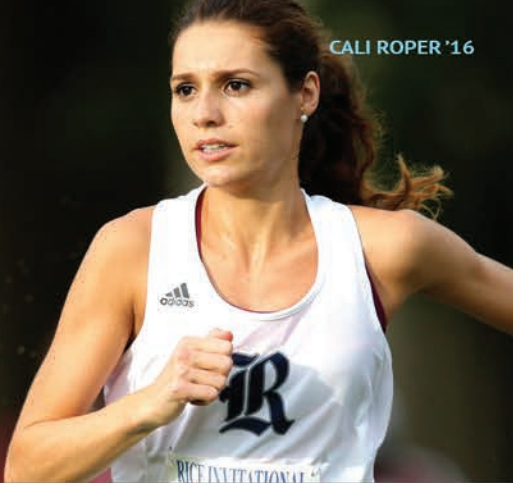
DARIK DILLARD '16



“Coming to Rice was the best decision of my life. Giving back to my alma mater through the Owl Club is my way of saying ‘thank you’ to those who helped make my Rice experience so impactful and an opportunity to give back in support of the current generation of student–athletes.”

—José Cruz Jr. '96

CALI ROPER '16



“I’ve followed Rice athletics since growing up in Houston in the ’50s, and Joannie joined the effort in the ’70s. While neither of us are Rice alums, we both have admired the university as a whole and athletics in particular. We feel that Rice embodies the purest form of student athleticism, while still playing at the highest level within the NCAA, and are happy to lend our support.”

—Glen Krajca-Radcliffe, Rice Owls Fan

Dear Owl Club Supporter:

Thank you for joining over 1,200 alumni, letterwinners, friends and fans who so generously supported Rice student–athletes through gifts to the Owl Club during a record-setting fiscal year. As part of the New Vision for Rice Athletics, we set ambitious goals and asked you, our loyal supporters, to join in our efforts to elevate Rice Athletics to a place of broadly recognized excellence and distinction. As a result of your generosity, the Owl Club raised over \$2.3 million for the enhancement of the student–athlete experience, providing vital resources for each varsity sports program such as team travel, scholarships, recruiting, equipment, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning. Thanks in part to your assistance, our future is bright, and I cannot thank you enough for all you do to support our tremendous student–athletes.

In addition to a successful Owl Club campaign, we witnessed many other notable accomplishments. Some of the highlights, among others documented in this report, include three conference championships, a dominant Hawai’i Bowl victory, a revitalized men’s basketball program, increases in season ticket sales across most ticketed sports and breaking ground on the new Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center.

As we position our student–athletes and varsity programs for greater success in 2015–16, your continued support of the Owl Club remains vital to the vision in building a stable and effective funding model. Indeed, we took a great first step by eclipsing previous Owl Club fundraising records, but we need your generosity again this fiscal year to help us move one step closer to reaching our full potential. Goals for fiscal year 2016 include growing the Owl Club to \$2.5 million and continuing our efforts to enhance ticket sales, sponsorships, athletic endowment and NCAA/ conference revenues. The university is committed to these goals and will continue to support athletics at or above its current level even as Owl Club and other sources of funding grow.

With a supportive president who values the merits of a successful athletics program, coaches and staff who are committed to teaching the values of leadership and teamwork, and a talented group of student–athletes who make us proud every day through their effort in the classroom and in competition, I am very optimistic for the future of Rice Athletics. Combining these attributes with an enthusiastic community of friends, fans and alumni who care deeply about the university and success of our student–athletes, we are poised for more victories and accomplishments in the year ahead.

Thank you again for your continued support of Rice Athletics and generous gifts to the Owl Club. I’m honored to serve as your director of athletics, and look forward to partnering with you to ensure a successful and sustainable future for our Rice Owls!

Go Owls!

Joe Karlgaard
Director of Athletics, Recreation and Lifetime Fitness



Milestone Dates

- Nov. 9:** Coach Nicky Adams and the women’s soccer team win the C-USA Championship.
- Dec. 24:** Coach Bailiff and the Rice football team complete the 2014 season by defeating Fresno State in the Hawai’i Bowl, marking the third straight bowl appearance for the Owls and the longest active bowl streak in C-USA.
- Jan. 16:** The first dual point at the George R. Brown Tennis Center is won by Rice’s Max Andrews ’17 and David Warren ’17 against UTSA.
- March 10:** Rice Athletics breaks ground on the new Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center.
- April 7:** Former Maryland associate head coach Tina Langley named the fifth women’s basketball head coach.
- April 19:** Coach Elizabeth Schmidt and Rice women’s tennis clinch the program’s third consecutive C-USA Championship.
- May 16:** Coach Wayne Graham and the baseball team secure the program’s 20th straight C-USA Championship and 21st consecutive NCAA appearance.
- June 4:** Rice Athletics announces plans to renovate the grandstand and team facilities at Wendel D. Ley Track.
- July 15:** The Owl Club announces a record-breaking fundraising year, increasing dollars raised by 52 percent and total gifts by 57 percent.



“We are in the midst of a new vision for athletics at Rice University. The vision is based on four pillars: athletic competitiveness, academic success, life education and Rice values. The establishment of the Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center touches each of these pillars by supporting the athletic and academic self-actualization of our student–athletes.”

— Joe Karlgaard

Facility Upgrades

Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center

This past spring, Rice University held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the \$31.5 million, 60,000-square-foot Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center. The two-story structure will house a weight room, a football team locker room, coaching and staff offices, an auditorium that will seat 150 people, a football team lounge, and areas for training and sports medicine that include hydrotherapy, plunge pools and exam rooms. Expected to open prior to the 2016 football season, the weight room and sports medicine areas will be available to student–athletes from all sports at Rice.

Soccer and Track and Field Facilities

In June 2015, Rice Athletics announced a \$2.2 million renovation to Wendel D. Ley Track. Renovations include a new grandstand, enclosed press box, and team facilities for soccer and men’s and women’s track and field and cross country. The new grandstand, which will accommodate 1,200 people with a mixture of chairback and bleacher seating and other amenities, is scheduled to be completed in January 2016.

The university is assisting in the funding of the renovation.

“We have outstanding soccer and track teams and are delighted that our athletes and their fans will have an improved facility in which to compete and cheer. These students are extraordinary members of our community, on and off the field, and we’re pleased that these improvements will give them an even better competitive experience and also enable us to continue recruiting the most talented athletes.”

— President David W. Leebron



“We are excited by the direction of Rice Athletics over the last few years and are proud to support excellence in sports without sacrificing excellence in academics. The future is bright.”

—Goran and Orpha Haag, Parents of Kristina Haag '11

DAISY DING '17

“Attending Rice athletic events has always been a part of our family tradition. We enjoy watching true student–athletes compete at the highest levels and believe that intercollegiate athletics is a vital part of the college experience. Providing Rice students with this opportunity requires the consistent financial support of the larger Rice community, and we are happy to do our part by contributing to the Owl Club each year.”

—Larry and Karen Ostrum George '77



JOHN CLAY REEVES '15

2014–15 Season Highlights

Athletic Competitiveness

- Rice captures three C-USA titles (soccer, women’s tennis, baseball), while reaching the championship matches in volleyball and men’s tennis and finishing second in women’s cross country and swimming.
- Women’s swimming, men’s cross country, and men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track sent a total of 11 individuals to compete in their respective NCAA championships, with six earning All-American honors.
- Rice scores 233 points in the 2014–15 Learfield Directors Cup standings to lead all C-USA schools and post its highest total since 2009.
- Men’s basketball matches its most league wins (eight) since joining C-USA, is victorious in an opening round game of the C-USA tournament and achieves double-digit victories for the first time since 2011–12.
- Women’s swimming automatically qualifies a relay at the NCAA championships for the first time since 2001.
- Natalie Beazant '15 is named C-USA Player of the Year for the second time in her career, becomes a two-time All-American and reaches the Sweet 16 at the NCAA singles championship for the second time in her Rice career.
- Chris Pillow '15, Scott Filip '17 and Duncan Dickerson win C-USA outdoor titles in the pole vault, decathlon and hammer throw, respectively.
- Cali Roper '16 becomes the first Owl to win the C-USA Women’s Cross Country title and is named the C-USA Women’s Cross Country Athlete of the Year.
- Chelsey Harris '16 is selected to participate at the U.S. Women’s National Volleyball Team open tryouts for the second consecutive year.

Academic Excellence

- Seth Gearhart '15 (men’s basketball, economics, 3.32 GPA), Evan Karakolis '16 (men’s track and field, mechanical engineering, 4.09 GPA), Belle MacFarlane '16 (women’s track and field, kinesiology, 3.89 GPA) and Brian Nordstrom '15 (football, civil engineering, 3.63 GPA) were named recipients of the 2014–15 Conference USA Scholar Athlete of the Year awards for their respective sports. Nordstrom also was named a CoSIDA Academic All-American.
- The women’s tennis team earned the highest single-semester team GPA in Rice history (3.818) in spring 2015.
- Thirty-one student–athletes earned a perfect 4.0 GPA or higher during the spring 2015 semester.



SETH GEARHART '15



NATALIE BEAZANT '15



BELLE MACFARLANE '16



BRIAN NORDSTROM '15

2014–15 Giving Statistics

Total Owl Club dollars raised:
\$2,348,436

Total donors:
1,258

Total number of gifts:
1,572

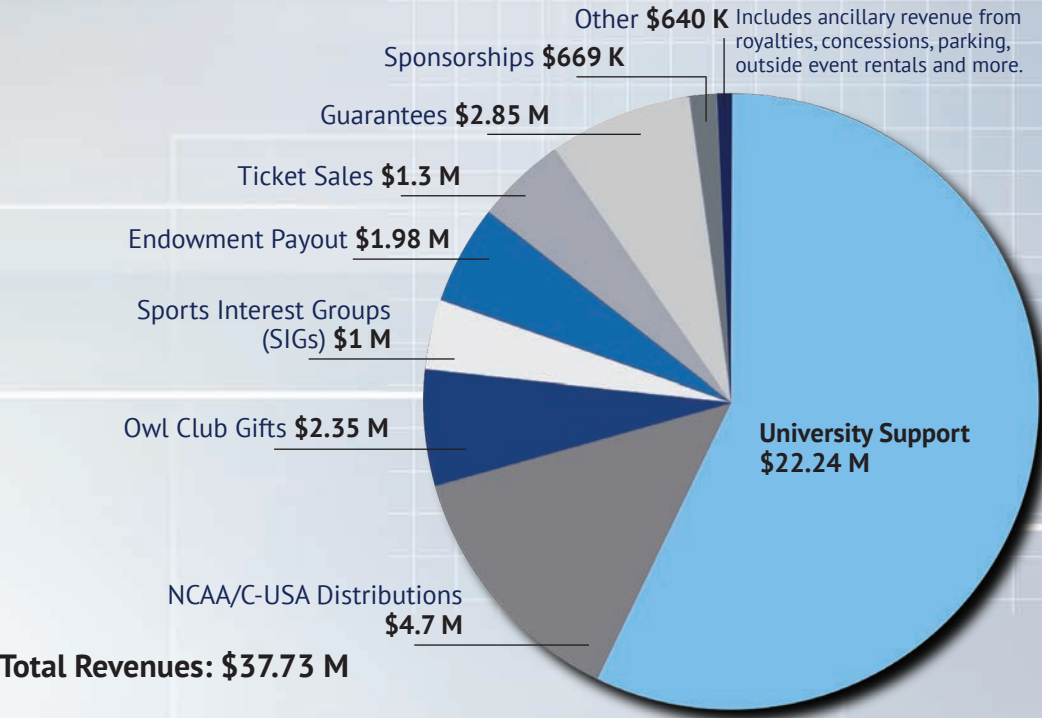
FY15 average gift per donor:
\$1,867

New gifts:
582, totaling \$414,507

Alumni donors:
563

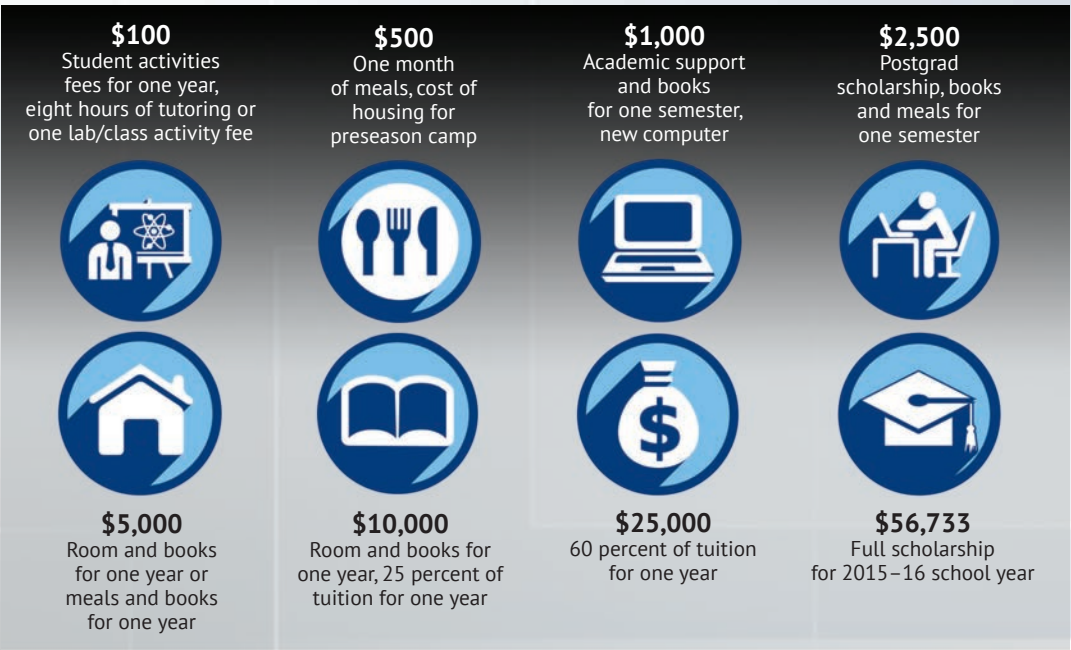
Letterwinner donors:
488

2014–15 Revenues

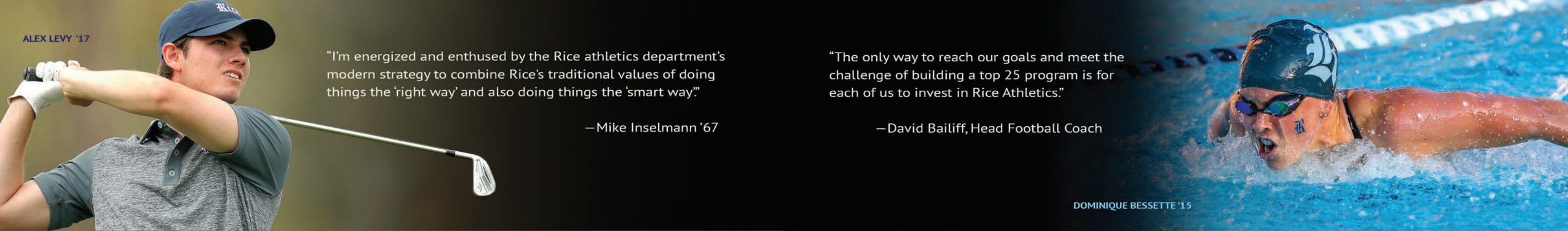


Total Revenues: **\$37.73 M**

By the Numbers: What your donation could provide



Rice Athletics received \$14.77 million in gifts during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, reflecting the philanthropic support of nearly 3,700 donors. The fundraising total comprises gifts and pledge payments received from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and does not include pledges of future support. This represents a 124 percent increase in dollars raised over the previous fiscal year, which can be attributed in large part to the \$21.76 million received in gifts and pledges for the Brian Patterson Sports Performance Center located in the north end zone of Rice Stadium.



ALEX LEVY '17

“I’m energized and enthused by the Rice athletics department’s modern strategy to combine Rice’s traditional values of doing things the ‘right way’ and also doing things the ‘smart way.”

—Mike Inselmann ’67

“The only way to reach our goals and meet the challenge of building a top 25 program is for each of us to invest in Rice Athletics.”

—David Bailiff, Head Football Coach

DOMINIQUE BESSETTE '15

Donor Honor Roll

Gifts to the Owl Club enhance the academic and athletic experiences of Rice student–athletes. This list acknowledges individuals who made gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Owl Club in fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015). For a complete list of all Owl Club donors, please visit rice.edu/owlclub.

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"The Owl Club is a great representation of all that makes Rice University athletics so special. Helping all 350 student-athletes achieve their academic and athletic goals is important to me and to our future as an athletic department."

—Tina Langley, Head Women's Basketball Coach

LAUREN HUGHES '16

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On the cover: Leah Mikesky '17, volleyball; Bishop Mency '18, men's basketball; Savannah Durkin '18, women's tennis; William Firth '15, men's cross country; Maya Hawkins '17, women's basketball; and Jake Hansen '19, men's tennis.



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RICE