I have enjoyed serving as your president this year. It has been a very busy year for me and RFSA and seems like it went by far too quickly. As always, there is still much to be done but you have a very capable leader coming on board in President Cecil Martinez with a wonderful Board to support him. The Luncheon Meetings, generously hosted by President Fenves and the President’s Office, continue to be joyous events with an outstanding attendance of 200+ for the April 26 event. The Treasurer’s report provided proof of our stability and we continue our student support with 13 scholarships this year. We were pleased to have two of our scholars, David Davis and Jeremy Binagia, join us for the luncheon. It was so special that the RFSA McKetta scholar could be present and be seated with Dr. McKetta. You could tell the pride in his voice when Dr. McKetta referred to Jeremy’s accomplishments.

In the fall we were excited to celebrate President’s Office, continue to be joyous events with an outstanding attendance of 200+ for the April 26 event. The Treasurer’s report provided proof of our stability and we continue our student support with 13 scholarships this year. We were pleased to have two of our scholars, David Davis and Jeremy Binagia, join us for the luncheon. It was so special that the RFSA McKetta scholar could be present and be seated with Dr. McKetta. You could tell the pride in his voice when Dr. McKetta referred to Jeremy’s accomplishments.

In the fall we were excited to celebrate Dr. McKetta’s 100th birthday. He continues to be his vibrant self, and at the Spring Luncheon he joyously presented his attendance awards to five lucky winners whose numbers were drawn from a basket of tickets. Dephanie Cates, Jim Bedrich, Edna Armendariz, Barbara L. White, and Bill Crook received awards of $200 each. What a generous friend we have in Dr. McKetta, not only to individuals for the attendance award but especially for his annual scholarship gift. We are also fortunate to have a generous group of sponsors. You’ll see their advertisements throughout this magazine. What great friends they are!

We are grateful to Rod Caspers for answering our call for a special musical presentation. Chip Dolan on the piano and Ellie Shuttles rattled the rafters with the Julie Andrews rendition of “These are a Few of My Favorite Things” and the beautiful “The Way We Were.” I’ve heard that our “Sing-a-Long” prompted the suggestion of starting a Singing Group comprised of our members! See Cecil if you are interested.

Travel Chair Carol Kay Johnson enlightened us on the RFSA’s February travels in Cuba. Carol Kay has provided scores of interesting travel adventures during her 10 years of chairing that committee. Now she feels it is time to step away from the chair and has recruited Karen and John Harrison along with Mike and Marcia Arn as co-chairs with the continued professional leadership of Karen Bluhm of Heart of Texas Tours. Read more details of Cuba and approaching trips in Carol Kay’s articles.

RFSA revolves around a terrific list of Interest Groups. Details are provided by the chairs of each. I encourage you to take advantage of all that these groups have to offer. I know you will find it a rewarding experience, and we welcome your suggestions for new subjects and leadership. We continue to search for new leaders and welcome volunteers in those roles. Norm Minter and Carol Ohiannou have done a fabulous job leading the Health group for many years and both have elected to retire from those positions. They have secured great speakers from lists provided by various health care institutions. A great opportunity for new volunteers!

Another REALLY great opportunity has been presented to retirees via SILVERSNEAKERS. You should have received information about this program provided through our health insurance. Elizabeth Matthews of UT System’s Human Resources spoke to us at our luncheon, encouraging everyone to participate. I’ve already started with membership in the 24 Hour Fitness on US 183. Membership with daily use of the facility is provided by our insurance coverage. What a fabulous opportunity to get our bodies in shape – or at least in better condition!

RFSA continues to support UT’s annual fund drive through participation in the Heart of Texas Campaign. A new volunteer endeavor this year organized by Peggy Mueller supported the President’s Office by helping to prepare ribbons and bookmarks for the annual UT Remembers program on May 6, 2016. Peggy was also instrumental in securing the IT staff who provided retiree ID cards for members during our luncheon—such a convenience for us. I appreciate all the many things Peggy has initiated and the tremendous support she provided to me throughout the year.

I close in tribute to the life of a wonderful First Lady, Priscilla Pond Flawn. Mrs. Flawn served with her husband during his two terms as President of our great University. Professionally, she was a teacher and Head Teacher at Good Shepherd School in Austin. She was a founding member of the Austin Association for the Education of Young Children. Upon Dr. Peter Flawn’s first retirement from UT in 1984, friends of Mrs. Flawn set up a Professorship in Child Development with the Department of Human Ecology—recently designated as the School of Human Ecology. Mrs. Flawn was a life member of the Advisory Council of Human Ecology. In 2002, when the Sarah M. and Charles E. Steay Psychology Building was dedicated on the University of Texas campus, the Child and Family Laboratory School in that building was named in her honor.

For more than 50 years, she loved and supported the University of Texas. In 1985, with matching funds from the Board of Regents, two additional Priscilla Pond Flawn Professorships were established—one in Organ or Piano Performance in the School of Music and one in Early Childhood Education in the College of Education. As part of the Bass Performing Arts Center 2001 Gala, two scholarships in the College of Fine Arts were created in her honor—one in Theatre and Dance and one in Music. She was a member of the University Ladies Club for more than 55 years and President in the mid-70’s. She served on the Advisory Council of the Harry Ransom Humanities Center from 1992-1995 and on the Restoration of the Hogg Auditorium Committee. She was an honorary member of the Advisory Council for the Texas Memorial Museum and served on the Executive Committee of the Chancellor’s Council.

On a personal note, I was thrilled the day she called and asked me to accompany her on a walking tour of the Campus with a new First Lady. Peg Berdahl had attended many events on the Campus but Pris wanted to help her know more about everyday life on the Campus. The three of us COVERED the 40 Acres ON FOOT to Littlefield Fountain, down and back up the Mall, through the Main Building, down what was lovingly called “Science Row” in my student days – 24th Street, to the Texas Memorial Museum and back again for lunch with students in the Union. It was a joy to accompany these two wonderful ladies. I also recall Pris’ love for the Littlefield Home and her involvement in refurbishing the first floor.

First Lady Priscilla Pond Flawn’s charm, grace, and presence in Austin and the UT Campus will be greatly missed.

Nancy Payne
RFSA President, 2015-16

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BRIDGE

Our bridge group members usually make up three, and occasionally four, tables, but we would love to have some new retirees join us. We usually play the first Monday of each month at the Ex-Students Association. If you are interested, please contact Carol Burvett (512-477-9092) or Bill Crook (512-251-3584 or wcrook@att.net).

DISCUSSION

The RFSA Discussion Group meets the first Wednesdays of most fall and spring months. We have speakers and lively Q&A on interesting topics. Our sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Howson Branch Library, 3500 Exposition. We invite you to participate and bring guests.

We had an active spring series this year, and attempted to invite experts from different fields to cover a variety of interests. This season, we hosted Dr. Mike Mauk, UT Professor in the Center of Higher Education, Representative Howard addressed both the political and practical realities of financing and policies in universities. She also addressed recent controversial issues like campus carry gun laws.

EXERCISE

The RFSA exercise class meets Tuesdays and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 at the Recreational Sports Center, room 1.106, where experienced exercise instructors Helen Scaffa and Kaitlin Jolly lead us in a variety of exercises designed for all ages and fitness levels. These include balance work, stretches, yoga, and low-impact pilates, using exercise balls, hand weights, and therabands.

To participate, you need to join Rec Sports; there is a 50% discount for retirees. For more information, contact chair Carolyn Wylie (cateswylie@gmail.com) with feedback, questions or suggestions.

FINE ARTS

Our newest interest group, Foodies, was created to give RFSA members a chance to try new restaurants with friends. We all enjoy our meals, but the best part of our outings is always the company! Foodies ended the fall with dinner on November 17 at Bullfight, a Spanish small-plates restaurant. On January 20, the group had lunch at Dai Due, famous for farm-to-table fare and an in-house butcher shop. Next up was lunch at Fork & Vine on February 5. Its eclectic food received a thumbs-up from all the attendees.

March dining experiences included lunch at Liberty Kitchen, a delicious meal at a downtown venue that actually had plenty of parking! Saffron was our March 17 dinner destination, "combing flavors of Nepal and India with a modern dining sensibility."

FINANCE/INVESTMENTS

We have had diverse and interesting speakers this spring. On January 11, Kenneth Price of Per Stirling Capital Management spoke on "Implementing Tax-Advantaged Strategies in the Retirement Distribution Phase". He covered strategies to minimize taxes during the distribution phase of retirement so that retirees’ cash flow and wealth is maximized. His talk included asset class location, tax bracket utilization, standard versus itemized deductions, and Roth conversions.

Elliott Weir of III Financial spoke on February 8 on the topic of “Pursuing a Better Investment Experience.” His presentation included how many people invest and the mental errors they make, comparing “active” investment vs. using indexes vs using “dimension” investing, and how to best use the market by focusing on what you can control.

Our final speaker this spring was Donald Yacktman of Yacktman Asset Management, who presented on May 9. His Yacktman Fund has a 10-year performance record which has significantly outperformed the S&P 500 benchmark. He spoke on “Viewing Stocks as Bonds.” The Finance Interest Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 1 p.m., usually in the Howson Library. Contact co-chairs Phil Kelton (pwkelton@gmail.com) or Pauline Lopez (juanlopes@yahoo.com) for more information or to become involved.

FOODIES

Our newest interest group, Foodies, was created to give RFSA members a chance to try new restaurants with friends. We all enjoy our meals, but the best part of our outings is always the company!

The April rains cleared for our lunch on April 20 at Launderette, inside a former laundromat in East Austin. The food was delicious and attendees all agreed they would return – maybe even scheduling a Foodies evening meal…? Then
we had dinner at Barley Swine on May 4, a unique small-plates experience; and our final spring lunch at Sala & Betty’s on May 13.

If you are interested in being included in Foodies events, contact chair Sharon Justice (dsshj@austin.utexas.edu) and she will put you on the notification list. She would also love to hear your suggestions for restaurants to try! And let Sharon know of other local food events and she will be happy to share them with our Foodies members.

HEALTH

We wrapped up the fall semester with a presentation by Diane Owens, physical therapist and assistant administrator of St. David’s Rehabilitation Hospital, on December 21. She spoke on “Tips from Physical Therapy to Keep You Moving and Feeling Like a Youngster!” Her advice was important not only for healing after illness or injury, but in our everyday lives. On February 16, we heard from Dr. David Nation, vascular surgeon at St. David’s and Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons, Austin. He spoke about advances in vascular surgery in the heart, lungs, chest, esophagus and major blood vessels of the body. Then, on March 21, Rev. Michael Barber, Chaplain at St. David’s, spoke on “Questions and Answers You Never Thought You Wanted to Know About Advanced Directives, Hospitals and End of Life Issues.” Our final meeting of the spring was on April 18. Dustin Swayze of St. David’s spoke on advances in radiology – instead of just X-rays, we now have a whole array of tools, including ultrasound, CT scans, PET scans and MRI’s.

The Health Interest Group will have new chairs in the fall, so stay tuned!

TRAVEL

Members interested in travel found they could stay in Austin or venture farther afield. 2016 started with the long awaited trip to Cuba to experience the Colonial Cities. The next trip was closer to home—The Texas General Land Office—and though the group stayed in town, they travelled back in time and explored the whole state as they looked at historical land grants and maps.

This fascinating tour was limited to the first 25 people who signed up, which happened almost immediately after the tour was announced. Kevin Klaus, Information Specialist, led the tour, and we give special thanks to Virginia Phillips who made the arrangements.

In August, with passports in hand, the group will experience the Best of Eastern Canada, traveling from Montreal to Quebec, on to Ottawa, cruising the Lake of 1000 islands, experiencing Niagara Falls from the Canadian side and then flying home from Toronto. Travel plans do not end there, with a trip to Costa Rica planned for February 2017, as well as visits to campus locations.

RFSA invites you to come travel with us! Information about upcoming day trips will be released as details are confirmed. If you have a destination in mind, let us know.

Are you interested in being part of the travel committee? Volunteers are welcome. Contact co-chairs Mike and Marcia Arn (texmarn@att.net and mjarn50@attmail.com) or Karen Harrison (kjharrison17@gmail.com).
The weather was gorgeous and on full display through the massive windows of the Connally Ballroom of the Alumni Center for our Spring Luncheon. Over 200 RFSA members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal, an overview of the RFSA trip to Cuba, inspiring musical entertainment – and five people each won $200 in the John McKetta Attendance Awards! Thanks to photographer Miles Abernathy for capturing so many special moments.

With apologies to Rodgers and Hammerstein,
"My Favorite Things" Parody
Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things
And then I don’t feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin’,
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin’,
And we won’t mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I’ve had,
And then I don’t feel so bad.
JOHN MCKETTA HONORED

The John J. McKetta Jr. Department of Chemical Engineering in the Cockrell School of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin has successfully completed its “Challenge for McKetta,” an ambitious fundraising campaign to advance the department and honor one of its most beloved teachers and leaders.

The campaign raised $28 million from UT Austin engineering alumni, friends and corporate partners, far exceeding the goal of $25 million. It marks the largest department fundraising campaign in the Cockrell School’s history.

The campaign’s success culminates two centennial celebrations for the department in the current academic year: Professor Emeritus John McKetta Jr.’s 100th birthday, which occurred October 17, 2015, and 100 years of chemical engineering education and innovation at UT-Austin.

Campaign funds will support student scholarships and academic initiatives, upgrade chemical engineering facilities and provide critical resources to advance research projects—strengthening every part of the department and ensuring its continued success.

“Completing this campaign is an extraordinary accomplishment for our department and for the Cockrell School,” said Thomas Truskett, chair of the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering. “I am extremely proud of how our chemical engineering community—from new undergraduate students to the most accomplished alumni—came together in an effort to honor Dr. McKetta, who has helped shape this department for decades.”

The Challenge for McKetta was launched in 2010 at an event celebrating McKetta’s 95th birthday. The campaign galvanized generations of supporters who were inspired by McKetta’s leadership, passion for teaching, innovation in the field of chemical engineering and commitment to the university. When the campaign hit the $10 million mark in 2012, the department was officially renamed in his honor.

“I am so grateful to everyone who contributed to the Challenge for McKetta and helped recognize the department’s centennial,” McKetta said. “I’ve always considered students and members of this department family, and it means the world to me that we’ve come together to ensure the continued success of the department—and, more importantly, the future success of its students.”

McKetta was born in 1915 to Ukrainian immigrant parents and grew up in Wyano, a small coal-mining town in western Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he went to work digging coal alongside his father and brother. He soon decided that he wanted to learn how to make chemicals from coal rather than dig it in the mines. He attended Tri-State College, now Trine University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering. He went on to earn a master’s degree and doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1944 and 1946, respectively.

In 1946, McKetta joined UT Austin’s chemical engineering faculty. Throughout his 70-year affiliation with the university, McKetta served as department chair of chemical engineering, dean of the Cockrell School and vice chancellor of the University of Texas System. Regarded by former students as a caring, effective teacher, McKetta was voted one of UT Austin’s 10 most inspiring professors by the Texas Exes and was featured in Alcalde magazine in 2013.

McKetta is recognized as a global authority on the thermodynamic properties of hydrocarbons and has served as an energy adviser to five U.S. presidents. He authored 87 books, including the 69-volume Encyclopedia for Chemical Processing and Design. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and, in 2009, was named one of the “50 Chemical Engineers of the Foundation Age” by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. And he has been, and continues to be, an active and involved member of the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association. Thank you and congratulations, Dr. McKetta!

MARGARET C. BERRY HONORED

To celebrate Dr. Margaret Berry’s 100th birthday last year, her friends fulfilled one of her dreams—to create an endowed scholarship in Religious Studies at UT in honor of her parents. The Lillian and Winfred Berry Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Religious Studies was established by the Board of Regents on October 15, 2015. This spring, the first two recipients of that scholarship were awarded. Tori Pell and Kylie McDaniel received the inaugural scholarships at a reception hosted by Department Chair Dr. Martha Newman held on May 9 in the Dean’s Room at the UT Club. Tori is graduating this semester with Departmental Honors in Religious Studies, and will begin her MA Degree in Middle Eastern Studies at UT this fall. Kylie will continue her studies at UT in the fall and will be pursuing Religious Studies Departmental Honors and Honors through the PolyMathic Scholars Program.

Congratulations, Dr. Berry, on fulfilling your dream and helping Tori and Kylie toward fulfilling theirs!

UT REMEMBERS

Thirty RFSA members assisted University Events by preparing bookmarks and orange ribbon loops for the guests at the UT Remembers programs on May 6, 2016. We gathered in Littlefield Home on April 27–28, 2016 to lend our hands to this activity.

This year is the first time we’ve assisted with this service project. Nimble (or not so nimble) fingers made remembrance loops from orange ribbon and then pinned the loops onto small schedule cards. Volunteers also added both orange and white ribbons to the bookmarks made to commemorate the day.

UT Remembers is an annual day of remembrance honoring members of the University of Texas at Austin community who died in the previous year. Flags on the Main Mall are lowered during a brief program at 8:45 a.m. The UT Remembers Service is held from 2-3 p.m. in the Tower Garden (south of the Tower near the turtle ponds).

From events.utexas.edu/utremembers:

UT Remembers began in 1998 when the UT Cares Committee developed a program to honor members of the university community—students and current and retired faculty and staff—who died in the prior year. On the last day of the spring semester, families, friends, colleagues and co-workers gather to remember those who died, to reflect upon who they were, what they gave to the institution and what they meant to the people whose lives they touched.

This RFSA service project will continue in future years; many thanks to our members who helped this initial year. Watch for announcements in late April 2017 and sign up to assist.
The Retired Faculty-Staff Association created a scholarship fund in 1983 and awarded the first scholarship five years later in 1988. Members and friends donate to that endowment, which had a market value of over $654,000 on February 29, 2016. Available income from that fund varies, depending on prevailing interest rates and market conditions. For 2015-2016, we were able to award scholarships to 13 students for the Fall and Spring semesters (at $1,250 per session), totaling $32,500. Scholarship recipients are chosen by Student Financial Services based on several criteria.

In addition to undesignated donations, the scholarship endowment benefits from gifts made in memory or honor of family, friends and colleagues; in celebration of particular events; and estate donations. Please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund—it will make a difference in a student’s life!

**RFSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 Scholarship Recipients

- **Nathan Berkowitz**  
  Senior, Biochemistry Plan II Honors / Radio-Television-Film
- **Andrew Faris**  
  Junior, Finance / Business Honors
- **Jeremy Binagia**  
  Senior, Chemical Engineering
- **David Davis**  
  Senior, International Relations & Global Studies / French
- **Chad Lehmann**  
  Senior, Economics / Finance
- **Manuel Diaz**  
  Senior, Physics / Mathematics
- **Kaylen Parker**  
  Junior, Architecture / Interior Design
- **Marjorie Dininger**  
  Sophomore, Nursing
- **Summer Williams**  
  Junior, Social Work / Youth & Community Studies
- **Cody Dornak**  
  Senior, Athletic Training / Allied Health Professions
- **Erinn Wright**  
  Senior, Marketing
- **Amy Zhang**  
  Senior, Human Development / Family Sciences

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**GIFTS TO THE RFSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Please consider making a contribution to the RFSA Scholarship Fund—it will make a difference in a student’s life!

**SEND A CHECK TO:**  
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**OR, DONATE ONLINE:**  
http://giving.utexas.edu/RFSA2012  
If you are donating in honor or memory of a person or event, write that information in the “notes” section.

Nathan Berkowitz  
Senior, Biochemistry Plan II Honors / Radio-Television-Film

Andrew Faris  
Junior, Finance / Business Honors

Jeremy Binagia  
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Senior, Physics / Mathematics

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Sophomore, Nursing

Summer Williams  
Junior, Social Work / Youth & Community Studies

Cody Dornak  
Senior, Athletic Training / Allied Health Professions

Erinn Wright  
Senior, Marketing

Amy Zhang  
Senior, Human Development / Family Sciences
Significant Gift to Scholarship Fund

On December 15, 2015, RFSA received an unexpected and very generous gift to its scholarship fund. The Franklin Lindsay Student Aid Fund provided a grant of $23,240 for RFSA scholarships. Special thanks go to two RFSA members, William Lasher and Robert Mettlen, who recommended this grant in their roles as Loan Committee members of this student aid fund managed by J.P. Morgan Chase Bank. The funds are designated to be used over the 2016 calendar year and are restricted to scholarships. This gift, and every donation to our RFSA Scholarship Fund, allows us to increase the impact of our RFSA scholarships every year.

Thank you to our donors!

Larry Faulkner
Sharon H. & Dean Justice
Philip W. Kelton
Franklin Lindsay Student Aid Fund
Joyce L. McClendon
Peggy Mueller
In memory of Dan R. Beck
Alice G. Reinarz
Ruth J. Rubio
In memory of Rudolph O. Rubio, Sr.
Charlene A. Urwin
Norman Wagner
In memory of Betty Ripperger
Boeynn R. Wilson
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene H. Wissler
In memory of former friends and colleagues
Man-Li and Ching Hsie Yew
Anonymous donation
In memory of Beatrice Gonzales

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been made in China) that was to be our guide, and boarded the bus (which had in Cuba we were met by Dani, our Cuban accompanied us from Miami, and once by US banks are accepted. Our US guide cans to use, since no credit cards issued currency other than euros for Ameri-
(Cuban Convertible Peso), the only legal
beagles.) Before leaving the airport, we
Lines for immigration were short. Not
utes later landed in Camaguey, Cuba.
ience the country just 90 miles across the
we knew that was our chance to experi-
en was Cuba’s third largest city. Founded 500 years ago, it is known as the “City of Squares” connected by narrow
cobblestone streets and was recently
designated a UNESCO World Heritage
Site. During the next week, we would
walk miles over cobblestone streets and
along narrow sidewalks, fascinated by
the colorful buildings, and never know-
ing what would be around the next cor-
ner. Our first lunch in Cuba was at Rest-
autante 1800 and it set the standard for
interaction with the local people, art-
ists, teachers, dancers, and singers. We
learned that Dani made more money dur-
ter was a doctor, but it was interesting to
learn that Dani made more money dur-
ings, fruits, and delicious desserts. Lis-
tening to our guide, we found out that
seafood is not part of the diet for locals,
since all fishing is highly regulated and
all catches are reserved for tourists or
exported. All Cubans are on a ration sys-
tem that included, among other staples,
five eggs per person per month. When we
asked how five eggs could be enough, she
explained that each additional egg was
5¢ (that makes a dozen eggs cheaper in
Cuba than in the US). However, to put
this in perspective, people make only
$25-$30 per month. Our tour guide’s sis-
permanently with her family on her own
(Maria Macias), talked
about the sport in
Cuba and its future. You
would find yourself walking upstairs
through part of the home to the paladar.
Mojitos or Cuba Libres were frequently
offered first and then came courses of

RFSA Visits
CUBA
by Carol Kay Johnson
photos by Mike Quinn

On every survey for destinations RFSA travelers have wanted to visit, Cuba has been close to the top of the list. When the Colonial Cities of Cuba tour was offered, we knew that was our chance to experi-
we sawed in the slightest
breeze, as though they
were underwater. In Ca-
maguey’s Plaza de Car-
men, we visited the stu-
dio of Martha Jimenez
who sculpted the life-
size bronze figures that
were sitting around the
square in front of her
gallery. Those figures
were engaged in activi-
ties that reflected the
life of the villagers, in-
cluding a group of gos-
sipers, a couple in love,
a man reading a paper
and a man pushing a
wheelbarrow. Her col-

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Leaving Camaguey, we rode in horse-drawn carts to the nearby village where the ranch workers lived, and had the opportunity to visit the school and see the homes of the workers. Although the villagers didn’t have much in the material sense, they were warm and welcoming and proud to show us their homes and how they lived. The school was fascinating—just two rooms, but full of books, maps and art. There was an old Mac computer with books sitting beside it, one of which was Clifford the Big Red Dog in English. One of the successes of the revolution, of which the Cuban people are very proud, is the fact that everyone is taught to read and write cursive in first grade.

By this point, we had travelled many miles—all the time on a comfortable bus, but how were the Cubans getting around the towns and down the country roads from place to place? In the cities there were colorful pedicabs (called bici-taxis) that could take you short distances. As we travelled from town to town, we did see many Cubans riding bikes, travelling in horse drawn carts, piled into the back of a truck, in buses, riding in vintage cars, or walking. We would see families walking one direction when we left in the morning and coming back the other direction when we returned. I did not ask our driver how many miles we covered during the course of our travels, but it was hundreds of miles, many more than you would even think possible on an island.

We spent the last few days of our sojourn in Havana. It was a long day’s ride from our beachfront resort through Cienfuegos to Havana. The visit to the Thoms–Terry Theater and the concert by the Contorees de Cienfuegos was a perfect interlude. There was a typical town square in Cienfuegos that we crossed at the same time that the children were getting out of school for lunch. We had learned that all the students were uniform forms. Burgundy skirts or pants indicated elementary while gold indicated junior high. Next stop was the paladar D’Carmelina for a lunch of many courses while we were entertained by the musical members of the family, a most pleasant interlude. Traveling to Havana from Cienfuegos took us by the Playa Giron or what we in the US know as the Bay of Pigs. The Museum was closed for renovation, but to be in the location that we can all remember from the 1960s was fascinating. Obviously the Cuban and American perspectives are very different, but it is a part of history. We noted that along the highways there are no signs that advertise products, but there are billboards with pictures of the revolutionaries and praise for them.

We spent the last few days in Havana, starting with a bus tour around the city. The first stop was at the impressive Plaza of the Revolution, a huge concrete plaza where Fidel Castro used to address the Cuban people. There is a statue of José Martí on one side and on the buildings opposite are grandiose metal portraits of Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos overlooking the large square. Parked along the street you see many vintage cars, some of which serve as taxis. Behind the plaza is the government building where Raul Castro governs. Next stop was the Bocoy Rum Factory where we had the opportunity to purchase the Havana Club rum as well as the famed Cohiba cigars. The show stealer was the flaming coffee that you could purchase, and it was well worth the price just for the ceremony that accompanied its preparation. Next on the itinerary was Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We toured Cathedral Square with the City Historian, a very personable and articulate young man who was Cuban by birth, and educated in Zurich. He chose to back to Cuba, while his brother opted to live in the US. He explained...
how the state owns the land one’s house sits on, but the people own the house, and because of economics several generations live under one roof. There are grave concerns about preserving the buildings that are disintegrating due to a lack of funds. The afternoon included a visit to the Museum of the Revolution which is housed in the former Presidential Palace that had been home to Cuba’s leaders until 1959. Outside it was surrounded by displays of planes, gun boats, jeeps and tanks, all from the Bay of Pigs era. Inside exhibits included everything from pre-Columbian culture to the present day socialist regime. Interestingly enough, there was a bust of Abraham Lincoln (who the Cubans admire) and also unflattering caricatures of US presidents Reagan, Bush (41) and Bush (43). The benefits of the revolution exhibit included this label: “Despite the incredulity of many foreign personalities, the Revolutionary Government was determined to abolish illiteracy in a one year period, from January to December 1961. To achieve this ambitious task around 300,000 persons managed to teach more than 700,000 adults to read and write.” The afternoon ended with a stop at the San Jose Craft Market and Art Center where booth after booth of artists and vendors displayed local crafts. That evening a group of us went to the world-famous Tropicana Cabaret, which had opened in 1939 and is an extravagant spectacle that presents song-and-dance routines reminiscent of 1950’s Cuba. Our last day in Havana started with a visit to Empresa Tabacco de Cuba, a cigar rolling factory. In the gallery we watched the workers in action, sorting the leaves and rolling the cigars. The #1 leaves are set aside for the Cohiba cigars. Next was a walking tour with a local historian of the fascinating Colon Cemetery, founded in 1876 and named after Christopher Columbus. It is noted for its many elaborate sculpted memorials and contains more than 500 major mausoleums, chapels, and family vaults. Many consider it to be one of the most ornate in the world. Several of our travelers found graves of family members, which made it an even more meaningful experience. Our last lunch at a palador was at Café Laurent, which had been written up in the NY Times travel section shortly before we started the trip. Our tour of Havana would not have been complete without a trip to Finca La Vigia (Lookout Farm), the home where Ernest Hemingway lived from 1939-1960. Though you could not walk through the rooms, all doors and windows were open so you could look into his world. From Hemingway’s home we travelled to experience the mosaics of world-renowned Jose Fuster (Cuba’s Picasso) who had spent 10 years rebuilding and decorating with mosaics 80 homes in a small fishing village on the outskirts of Havana. All good things must come to an end, and there could have been no better way to conclude our Cuban adventure than with a parade to dinner, riding in vintage cars with honking horns through downtown Havana.
Summer Reading List

**COLONY**
by Anne Rivers Siddons
Maude, a southern woman, marries a wealthy man and spends her summers at Retreat, Maine, where she doesn’t fit in and is deemed unacceptable as a daughter-in-law. But she learns that this summer colony is held together by strong women, and we watch her life and growth over 70 years in this wonderful novel. A “perfect book to take to the beach.” Recommended by Dorothy Rishling.

**THE NIGHTINGALE**
by Kristin Hannah
The story of two sisters who experience World War II in France. Each is involved with the underground, but in different ways. It is one of those books that is hard to put down, and will transport you to a different time and place. One of the best books I have read in years.

**COMETH THE HOUR**
by Jeffrey Archer
This is the sixth and latest book in the Clifton Chronicles series that tells the story of one family across generations, across oceans, and from heartbreak to triumph. Archer’s writing is gripping, and has been described as “keeping your blood pressure high; you’ll risk back injury just from being kept on the edge of your seat.” This novel opens with the reading of a suicide note which has devastating consequences, and keeps you intrigued with extraordinary storytelling and Archer’s trademark twists. Recommended by Dorothy Rishling.

**MIDDLESEX**
by Jeffrey Eugenides
“I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day of January 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, Summer Reading List

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Visit Karavel Shoes & New Balance Austin for the finest men’s and women’s comfort footwear.
in August of 1974. Our country is currently struggling with many issues that run through this book, including gender identity laws and immigration issues. This book takes us through a family’s story while weaving in our country’s 20th century history.

**THE SWANS OF FIFTH AVENUE** by Melanie Benjamin

It’s catty! It’s gossipy! It’s a quick read! It’s a historical novel by the author of *The Aviator’s Wife*. She takes you back to New York high society in the 50’s and 60’s where she explores the relationship between the gorgeous, wealthy, jeweled Babe Paley and the author of *In Cold Blood* and *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* Truman Capote. With the author’s vivid descriptions and rich character development, you will be able to visualize yourself having a glass of wine at La Cote Basque along with Babe and the other swans. The author gives you a rich look behind the scenes of some of America’s most popular, wealthy, jewel-encrusted New Yorkers while weaving in their personal lives and deaths. Highly recommended by Sharon Justice.

**THE BOYS IN THE BOAT: NINE AMERICANS AND THEIR EPIC QUEST FOR GOLD AT THE 1936 BERLIN OLYMPICS** by Daniel James Brown

As the 2016 Rio Olympics are approaching, we all have a little Olympic Fever. This book takes you back to the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where Jesse Owens repudiated Adolf Hitler’s notion of white supremacy. It is the remarkable story of a group of young rowers, rough and tumble, but well trained, as they take on the best rowers in the world. This book offers a vivid picture of the socio-economic landscape of 1930’s America, and is a story that informs as it inspires. Although it is nonfiction, it is as engrossing as fiction. Highly recommended by Colleen Mehner.

**BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates’s letter to his 15-year-old son about the realities of being black in America. It is eloquent, moving, funny and painful. Coates does not sugarcoat anything. It is nonfiction and explores the relationship between the author and his son. It is a thought-provoking book that challenges us to wrestle with the questions on our own. This short (80 page) book is written by one of my favorite authors, and gets right to the heart of what it means to be a black woman. Sarah’s writing is smart and funny and touching, and everyone who has lived in Texas will love the familiar scenes she paints – from our love of Dr. Pepper and good mascara to the ladies working at the Hyde Park Beauty Salon. Or pick up anything else Sarah has ever written – you’ll love it all. Recommended by Linda Peterson.

**THE SWANS OF FIFTH AVENUE**

It’s a story that informs as it inspires. Although it is nonfiction, it is as engrossing as fiction. Highly recommended by Colleen Mehner.

**A LOVE LETTER TO TEXAS WOMEN** by Sarah Bird

This short (80 page) book is written by one of my favorite authors, and gets right to the heart of what it means to be a Texas woman. Sarah’s writing is smart and funny and touching, and everyone who has lived in Texas will love the familiar scenes she paints – from our love of Dr. Pepper and good mascara to the ladies working at the Hyde Park Beauty Salon. Or pick up anything else Sarah has ever written – you’ll love it all. Dorothy Rishling also says that her all-time favorite vacation area is northern lower Michigan – Mackinac Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Traverse City. They are beautiful and particularly appealing as a summer escape from our Texas heat.

Linda Peterson writes “My ancestral village of Duluth, MN, is my favorite summer destination. Because of its location on beautiful Lake Superior, it has a bustling harbor, spectacular scenery and one of the best beaches in the continental U.S. Excellent restaurants abound in the lakeshore visitors’ sector and there are also miles of hiking and strolling trails both along the shore and inland. For those who like canoeing and camping, Duluth is the gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a pristine woodland with glorious fish-filled lakes and streams, wildlife, and campsites where motorized conveyances are forbidden, making for a rare time of silence in our ever noisier world. I also recommend a visit to the International Wolf Center in nearby Ely. Here visitors from all over the world come to watch wolves in their native habitat and hear about much-needed conservation efforts on behalf of these fascinating animals.”

**Favorite Vacations**

Two members recommended European river cruises on Uniworld Cruise Lines. Those ships are small and luxurious, but without the fussiness of some other lines. Dorothy Rishling loved her cruise on the Danube, and Tanya Norwood adored her “Castles Along the Rhine” trip. The meals are delicious, and you quickly learn the names of the ship staff, who you will see all over the ship taking care of your every need. It is such an easy way to travel, too. You unpack once, then watch the beautiful scenery go past your balcony or from the lounge or top deck. You dock at various ports, large cities and small villages, and can choose how you want to see them – you can go on an arranged tour, explore on your own with a bike from the boat, or borrow a hiking stick and set out. Or just stay on the boat, which is a worthy destination on its own. It is a very different experience from a large cruise ship, more like being in a boutique hotel that moves. And you will quickly make lots of new friends of your fellow passengers. (Note: Tanya discovered Uniworld through Costco Travel Services, and confirmed by shopping around that they have the best prices.)

Dorothy Rishling says that her all-time favorite vacation area is northern lower Michigan – Mackinac Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Traverse City. They are beautiful and particularly appealing as a summer escape from our Texas heat.

Linda Peterson writes “My ancestral village of Duluth, MN, is my favorite summer destination. Because of its location on beautiful Lake Superior, it has a bustling harbor, spectacular scenery and one of the best beaches in the continental U.S. Excellent restaurants abound in the lakeshore visitors’ sector and there are also miles of hiking and strolling trails both along the shore and inland. For those who like canoeing and camping, Duluth is the gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a pristine woodland with glorious fish-filled lakes and streams, wildlife, and campsites where motorized conveyances are forbidden, making for a rare time of silence in our ever noisier world. I also recommend a visit to the International Wolf Center in nearby Ely. Here visitors from all over the world come to watch wolves in their native habitat and hear about much-needed conservation efforts on behalf of these fascinating animals.”

Torks & Caicos is another favorite destination. This group of 40 islands are technically in the Atlantic, although the perfectly clear turquoise waters are Caribbean-esque. The T&C Islands are a British Crown Colony (so you drive on the left side of the road), but the official currency is the US dollar. Trade winds keep the temperatures moderate. There is amazing snorkeling and diving, including Travelers’ Choice awarded Grace Bay Beach, “the #1 beach in the world.” If your ideal vacation is relaxing on the beach, this is the place to go.

Dorothy Rishling also says that her all-time favorite vacation area is northern lower Michigan – Mackinac Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Traverse City. They are beautiful and particularly appealing as a summer escape from our Texas heat.
RFSA UPDATES

I’VE HAD A GREAT TIME!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Magazine Editor for the last four years. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, and look forward to my future adventures in RFSA! Your new Editor, Linda Peterson, is already doing a fantastic job, and I am sure she will enjoy her position as much as I did.

Our organization and our magazine are here for you, so please keep your suggestions and ideas coming – you are what makes RFSA great! —Tany Norwood

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

We have two ways for you to stay connected to RFSA online: our RFSA website and our Facebook group.

You can find photos and information about our organization and upcoming events on our website. Our RFSA magazine is also posted here as soon as it is mailed to members. Note: UT recently changed the URL of many websites, so be sure you have our new website bookmarked: http://sites.utexas.edu/RFSA

And if you are a Facebook user, please join our group! Search Facebook for “University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association” or Google “Retired Faculty Staff Association at the University of Texas Facebook.” We want this to be a place where members can post activities, updates and photos, and not just those about RFSA. We want to create a community for our members to share all kinds of information.

SILVERSNEAKERS

If you are a member of the UT Select Health Plan, you should have recently received a member ID card to SilverSneakers. This program allows you to access more than 13,000 national gyms and fitness locations at no cost. In Austin, those include Gold’s Gyms, Anytime Fitness, Planet Fitness, LA Fitness, 24 Hour Fitness and many other locations too numerous to list here. You can use fitness equipment and free weights, swim laps, take classes in yoga or tai chi, join an exercise or walking group, and lots of other options, depending on the facility you visit. You can also enroll at multiple locations, to customize your fitness routine. For more information, visit the website at silversneakers.com.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors have been solicited because of their excellent reputations in selling the best goods and supplying the best services to customers. Most of them are family businesses that have been in our community for a long time. We are privileged to have the Covert family (autos), the Strand family (Stan’s A/C), the Ravel family (Karavel Shoes), the Goff family (Mr. Appliance), the Keld family (The Bug Master) and Sytha Minter (Real Estate.) The others, although not family-owned, have a long-time reputation for giving outstanding service to our community. They are St. David’s HealthCare, the University Federal Credit Union, and the Westminster Retirement Community.

These businesses are more than sponsors, they are our partners. Their sponsorship helps us to keep our membership dues low and helps increase our scholarship funds for UT students. When you need the goods and services that they offer, we ask that you give them a call and give them an opportunity to help you with your needs. It will be a win-win-win situation for you, for them, and for RFSA. When you use them, please let them know that you are in RFSA and that we appreciate their support. Thank you for considering their goods and services and using them! —Cecil Martinez, President

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Clouseau, my magazine muse and typo-generator
IN MEMORIAM

Calvin Patton Blair, 91
Professor Emeritus, School of Business
February 2, 2016

Carolyn P. Boyd, 71
Professor of History
July 19, 2015

John W. Brokaw, 79
Professor Emeritus, Theatre and Dance
January 12, 2016

Dr. Frederick Emerson Brooks, 99
Asst. Director, Electrical Engineering Research Lab
December 25, 2015

Fita Coronado, 76
Accounting Technician, Tarlton Law Library
December 11, 2015

David Brown Crawford, 80
UT System, Internal Audit Manager
March 18, 2016

Mary Rose DeLeon, 74
Physical Plant, Custodial Services
November 7, 2015

Loyd Werter Dreher, 83
Lecturer, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering
February 23, 2016

Cyril Durrenberger, 74
Sr. Lecturer, Chemical Engineering
March 4, 2016

Ruth Epstein, 90
Widow of Jeremiah Epstein, Professor Emeritus, Anthropology
December 10, 2015

Priscilla Pond Flawn, 90
Wife of Peter Flawn, former President of UT Austin
April 12, 2016

Will Goodwin, 68
Modern Literature Bibliographer & Rare Book Cataloger, Harry Ransom Center
April 9, 2016

Elizabeth Holt Kay, 92
Widow of James Kay, Professor Emeritus, Finance
January 7, 2016

Billie Burt Kenyon, 92
Administrative Services Officer, Office of Finance & Administration
November 1, 2015

Mark Lyndon Kincaid, 56
Adjunct Professor of Law
January 19, 2016

Robert “Bob” Stanley Kotell, 82
Housing & Food Services, Jester Dining
March 22, 2016

Tom J. Mabry, 83
Professor Emeritus, Botany
November 29, 2015

Sue Rodi, 73
Sr. Lecturer, English
April 10, 2016

Gary Shelton, 78
Asst. Director, Texas Union
December 17, 2015

Linward Paul Shivers, 85
Office of General Counsel, UT System
April 6, 2016

Adele Goldstucker Silberberg, 87
Secretary in Defense Research Laboratory and wife of Harold Silberberg, Research Engineer, Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering
March 22, 2016

Rosemary Slacks, 78
Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Health Education
December 4, 2015

Maurice Knox Sparkman, 91
Astronomy
December 18, 2015

Mary Louise Van Winkle, 100
Widow of Matthew Van Winkle, Professor, Chemical Engineering
April 10, 2016

Leandro Prado “Leer” Vasquez, 82
Asst. Building Attendant, Physical Plant Custodial Services
February 22, 2016

Louise Sneed Vine, 96
Widow of Harry Vine, Lecturer, Business
February 17, 2016

Robert A. Webb, 71
Adjunct Professor, School of Law
October 31, 2015

This column honors the memory of active and retired University of Texas at Austin and University of Texas System faculty and staff who have died. Every attempt has been made to identify the university affiliation of each individual or their contributions to the university community. Also included, when known, are spouses of retired faculty and staff members. Any additions or corrections to the list should be addressed to Barbara Frock, Historian, at bfrock@austin.rr.com.
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

The RFSA provides a wide range of activities designed to enrich the retirement experiences of its members. In addition, it serves as a mechanism for advising UT officials about the suitability of current retirement benefits. A complete statement of the purposes of the association can be found in the constitution. **Submissions may be emailed to: lp78757@gmail.com or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes | P.O. Box 7278 | Austin, TX 78713**