



# RFSA MAGAZINE

RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## REMEMBERING MARGARET BERRY

*page 16*

## THINKING OF MARGARET

BY JIM NICAR

*page 18*

## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA

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*SPRING 2017*

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# RFSA MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXXI, ISSUE 2

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2016-17

2017-18

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*Back cover photo by Anna Dolan, Door to Texas Union*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE as your president this year. My priority has been to make you aware of how important it is to maintain good health as we age. Even though the year went by much too fast, RFSA will continue making you aware of the various health programs we are eligible for with our UT benefits.

UT's Living Well program and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BC/BS) send us weekly emails giving us advice on physical and mental fitness. Please make time to read them and take advantage of the information. A major BC/BS benefit is free gym memberships through the Silver Sneakers program. Taking advantage of these benefits could increase the quality and longevity of your life.

We had a wonderful holiday reception at the Sterling Events Center last December. We thank Nancy Payne for negotiating with Sterling Events to provide us with the venue. We also want to thank Carol Barrett and the Ex-Students Association staff for coordinating and facilitating the event in such an excellent manner. They were also able to find two talented high school seniors to entertain us with beautiful holiday piano music.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and fellowship at our spring luncheon meeting. Our speaker, Dr. Jim Vick, had a long and admirable career at UT. He spoke on "Nine Days I Will Never Forget" and shared highlights from his professional life.

As always, we thank President Fenves and the Texas Exes for the support they give us during the two luncheons we hold in the fall and the spring. We appreciate their generosity, without which we could not hold these events. Also, whenever I've asked Carol Barrett to help us, she just says, "No biggie, we'll get it done." We're very thankful for her help.

Regarding our scholarship fund, we are very thankful to you as donors and also to our members Bob Mettlen and Bill Lasher. Bill and Bob were instrumental in getting the Franklin Lindsay Student Aid Fund to provide two grants totaling \$34,320 over the past two years.

The RFSA Scholarship Fund in January had a book value of \$543,040 and a market value of \$806,058. In 1998-99 the fund had a book value of \$120,000 and a market value of \$195,898. This is an increase of 353% in book value and 311% in market value in about 18 years. We are very pleased that our scholarship fund is doing so well.

The founders of our association would also be very happy that our Fund is helping many more students with their educational expenses than when it was started. This is

possible because of a combination of donations from members and corporate and foundation gifts. We will do our best to keep this going.

I want to thank all the RFSA Board Officers and the Interest Group Chairs for their work in keeping our association running smoothly during the year. I have all the confidence in our RFSA team to do the same for our new President Tany Norwood. Tany will do a great job leading our association.

Regarding RFSA's finances, treasurer Clemith Houston gave us some very good news. We have a balance of \$49,966! Just to put this in context, our 2012 balance was \$2,609. That is when the board decided we needed to have additional revenues without significantly increasing membership fees. Our solution was to solicit sponsors. We started with about 4 sponsors supporting us with about \$3,500, and we now have 10 sponsors that support us with approximately \$7,500 annually. The Travel Interest Group usually brings in additional funds annually. Dr. John McKetta, the senior member in our association, has contributed \$6,000 each of the last 3 years with \$2,000 annually going for attendance awards. So, we're in good financial shape, and we hope to keep it that way.

Again, it has been an honor to serve as your president, and I will always cherish the experience of working with the "RFSA team" to keep our association running well.

—Cecil Martinez

PRESIDENT, 2016-17



*President-elect Ruth Rubio, outgoing president Cecil Martinez, and incoming president Tany Norwood*

## PLEASE USE THE GOODS AND SERVICES OF OUR SPONSORS

OUR SPONSORS HAVE BEEN SOLICITED BECAUSE OF THEIR EXCELLENT reputations in selling the best goods and supplying the best service to customers. Most of them are family businesses that have been in our community for a long time. These are the families of the Covert Family (auto dealerships), the Strand Family (Stan's A/C), the Ravel Family (Karavel Shoes), the Goff Family (Mr. Appliance), the Keld Family (The Bug Master), Sytha Minter (real estate), and the Fish Family (Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes). The others, although not family owned, have a long-time reputation for giving wonderful service to the community. They are St. David's HealthCare, University Federal Credit Union, and the Westminster Retirement Community.

When you need goods and services that our Sponsors offer, we ask that you contact them and give them an opportunity to help you with your needs. We are sure that it will be a win-win-win situation for you, for them, and for our association. Their sponsorship helps us to keep our membership dues at a low price and also helps us contribute to scholarships for UT students. When you use them, please let them know that you belong to RFSA, and that we appreciate their support. We thank you for considering their goods and services and using them. —Cecil Martinez



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## MEMBERS' FAVORITE THINGS TO DO IN SPRING



*Field of bluebonnets (photo by Sonja Berry)*

THIS PAST WINTER, RFSA MEMBERS' THOUGHTS TURNED TOWARD their favorite springtime activities:

Sonja Berry, "I always enjoy a drive out to the Hill Country to see the bluebonnets. Trying to figure out where they are most prevalent each year becomes a part of the experience. Several years ago a group of friends joined me to go on "the hunt." We went to the Brenham area and found the bluebonnets plentiful there. It was a very good day."

Ruth Rubio, "My favorite is a walk around Lady Bird Lake. Everyone is out again and things feel very lively...runners on the trail, rowers on the lake, dogs chasing the squirrels, etc. The air is still cool, too."

Peggy Mueller: "My favorite sight in the very early spring this year was looking out my kitchen window at my yaupon holly tree covered in red berries. For the very first time, a flight of robins came one morning and ate their fill, robins flitting about and covering every branch. My absolute favorite spring birds, cedar waxwings, flew in after the robins moved away that morning and ate the rest of the red berries. My mockingbird tried to fight the mass invasion of both species but they just kept eating away. At the end of the day, my mockingbird could only find two or three red berries for himself. I am so glad I was home to witness all the fluttering in my tree. My cats and I didn't get much done that morning!!!"

Mary Baughman: "Since my retirement from the University of Texas, after working most of my 40 years at the Ransom Center Book Conservation lab, I have been working as a volunteer at a non-profit that I helped to found. The AustinBook Arts Center (ABAC) offers workshops in the book arts, letterpress printing, bookbinding, paper decoration, mending of books and documents, and classes for teachers and parents who can use book arts to promote literacy for people of all ages. We are also helping to bring a world-class design bookbinding exhibit to Austin. Working at ABAC is my favorite activity, winter, spring, summer, or fall."

Other favorites:

Don Davis, "Spotting spectacular displays of central Texas wildflowers off of roadways;"

Karen and John Harrison, "John and my spring activities that we enjoy most are Hill Country drives and the beach at Port Aransas;"

Elaine Blodgett, "My favorite activity is planting flower seeds. I can't wait to see all the color around my property

Marcia Arn, "Watching my flowers bloom;"

Robert Wentz, "Walking my dog."

Finally, Barbara Frock shared a poem:

### SPRING

*I love the spring*

*For every day*

*There's something new*

*That's come to stay*

*Another bud*

*Another bird*

*Another blade*

*The sun has stirred.*



*Austin Book Arts Center lab*

## MYSTERY PHOTO

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### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PHOTO?

If so, please send your answer to Linda Peterson, Editor, at [lp78757@gmail.com](mailto:lp78757@gmail.com).

There will be no prizes, but you might get bragging rights with your name in the next issue. Hint: One of these young ladies became a famous TV and movie star.

*Source: UT Texas Student Publications, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, di\_05167*

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## INTEREST GROUPS

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### BRIDGE

THE RSFA BRIDGE GROUP CONTINUES TO MEET MONTHLY, USUALLY the first Monday of each month, at the Alumni Center. This is a friendly group that plays party bridge, not duplicate. We welcome new members. For information, contact Mary Kay Hemenway at [marykay@astro.as.utexas.edu](mailto:marykay@astro.as.utexas.edu) or Liz Bozyan at [starlizzie@austin.rr.com](mailto:starlizzie@austin.rr.com).

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### DISCUSSION

GREETINGS FROM THE RFSA DISCUSSION GROUP! FOR THOSE OF YOU who attend our programs, thank you for your participation. For those of you who have yet to attend, we send a cordial invitation. Meetings are announced via email to the RFSA mailing list. There are three meetings in fall and three in spring, occurring on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. We convene in the conference room of Howson Branch, Austin Public Library.

The talented writer Dr. Bette Oliver was our first guest for the spring 2017 term. Dr. Oliver's story of her evolving scholarly activities was enhanced as she read parts of her historical works and poetry. In addition, those members attending were able to reflect with her on the thinking, learning, and changing



*Don Davis and speaker James Henson*

that extends for a lifetime. Her personal experiences were a model for all of us to continue to develop at all life stages.

The next presenter, Professor Renita Coleman, teaches in the UT Austin School of Journalism. Her research focuses on ethics in journalism and the influence of presentation, particularly picture and video on the impact of a story. Working with focus groups and surveys and using as examples many of the iconic photos in American politics, Dr. Coleman has been able to chronicle the visual impact of photographs on how a message is received. She engaged us in a dialogue on ethical decision-making, societal attitudes, and the influence of various forms of communication.

Dr. James Henson, Director of the Texas Politics Project in the Department of Government at UT Austin, was our third speaker. Dr. Henson discussed political polling and communication strategies in the context of the Texas state legislature. He contrasted modes of leadership, dominant issues, and shifts in public opinion and influence between past and present Texas legislative sessions. He also shared insights about our current session gleaned from his ongoing interviews with state leaders and by monitoring and conducting polls.

One significant goal of Discussion Group is to air a variety of topics, from the Liberal Arts to Social Sciences to Politics. Another aim is to provide a forum for thoughtful conversation among our members. We would be delighted to have you join us, suggest a topic if you wish, and bring a friend. You can contact the co-chairs Don Davis ([dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu](mailto:dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu)) and Alice Reinartz ([areinartz@tamu.edu](mailto:areinartz@tamu.edu)) for more information.

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### EXERCISE

THE RFSA EXERCISE CLASS MEETS TUESDAY AND THURSDAY mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 at the Recreational Sports Center, room 1.106, where experienced exercise instructors Helen Scaffa and Sandy Erickson 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 thera-bands.

## INTEREST GROUPS

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To participate, you need to join Rec Sports; there is a 50% discount for retirees.

For more information, contact Carolyn Wylie ([cateswylie@gmail.com](mailto:cateswylie@gmail.com) or 512-453-2556). Come join us to build your strength, improve your balance, and have fun at the same time!

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*Phil Kelton and Carl Stuart*

## FINANCE/INVESTMENTS

THE FINANCE/INVESTMENT GROUP MEETS ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF the month at Howson Library. We do not have meetings every month, but do publicize all meetings on the RFSA website calendar and also via emails to RFSA members whenever we have a scheduled speaker.

In January Mr. Carl Stuart, Independent Financial Advisor, gave his annual talk to the group. He reviewed the financial markets including prospects for 2017, and discussed the potential impact of the recent elections on financial and investment decisions. He is always very well received and we thank him for continuing to speak to our group every year. Anyone interested in following Carl's commentary on the financial markets is encouraged to listen to his radio show on Saturday afternoons on KLBJ-AM radio or to the podcasts from this show.

In February we had the unfortunate circumstance of a no-show by our scheduled speaker. So instead, we held a discussion reviewing some of our past speakers and ideas for future topics, as well as an impromptu talk by one of the attendees. One result of the discussion was interest in having talks about investing in non-financial assets such as collectibles and real estate, so we will look for speakers in those areas for the 2017-18 year to complement more traditional investment topics.

Our next meeting is on September 10, 2017.

Lewis Myers ([lewism@stedwards.edu](mailto:lewism@stedwards.edu)) is now a third co-chair of the group, in addition to:

Phil Kelton ([pwkelton@gmail.com](mailto:pwkelton@gmail.com)) and  
Pauline Lopez ([psanlopez@yahoo.com](mailto:psanlopez@yahoo.com)).

Please contact us with questions or suggestions for speakers and topics.

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## FINE ARTS

THE FINE ARTS CHAIR OR CO-CHAIRS POSITION IS CURRENTLY VACANT. If you are interested in coordinating the diverse activities of this interest group, please contact RFSA President Tany Norwood ([tanynorwood@utexas.edu](mailto:tanynorwood@utexas.edu)). The Fine Arts Interest Group has three members who plan events:

Carolyn Wylie keeps RFSA members abreast of musical events in and around Austin, with emphasis on those that are free or low cost ([cateswylie@gmail.com](mailto:cateswylie@gmail.com)).

Judy Amis arranges the theater parties, usually including a happy hour or dinner. We've done this several times already—it's always fun for all, with easy access to the theater as well as a nearby restaurant ([judy.amis@yahoo.com](mailto:judy.amis@yahoo.com)).

Laraine Lasdon is our art docent extraordinaire.

RFSA members are encouraged to contact any of us with ideas and suggestions for fine arts related possibilities. We also want to keep an email list of interested arts enthusiasts. Please let us know if you wish to be on such a specialized list. Best of all, join our committee to participate in planning some informative and enriching events!

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## FOODIES



*Foodies enjoy Red Ash Italian restaurant on April 20*

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE FUN, ENJOY STIMULATING CONVERSATION, AND explore Austin restaurants, then join the Foodies!

On a beautiful and sunny day in February, we had lunch

## INTEREST GROUPS

at Blue Dahlia, a French restaurant, where we sat on their lovely patio. To whet your appetite, we ate tartines, frittatas, croissants, and salads. Desserts? Our table shared a huge chocolate peanut butter brownie and some macarons.

March excursions included dinner at Mongers Fish Market. It's a bright, light environment with blue tile walls that reflect the sea and oh, was the seafood fresh and tasty. You could even buy some fresh seafood for the next day's meals, if you wanted. We also had lunch at a longtime Austin favorite, East Side Cafe, that comfortable house in East Austin. We enjoyed quesadillas, enchiladas, salads, and buttermilk pie.

One of our members described our April 20 dinner at Red Ash on our Facebook page (University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association):

*Foodies had a great Italian meal last night at Red Ash, downtown at 3rd and Colorado – delicious gnocchi, fish and bone-marrow risotto. Stuffed afterward, we did try a very interesting olive oil cake. The evening ended with a bang, literally. As we were standing to leave, someone dropped a glass on the stairs behind our table. Shards of glass rained down on us. Scary, but no noticeable cuts – glad it didn't happen while food was on the table!*

May outings will include lunches at Bazille, a new restaurant located in Nordstrom's at the Domain; and Noble Sandwich Co. on Burnet Road. We will have dinner at Old Thousand at 1000 East 11th Street.

This is a fun group, and we hope you will join us! Contact Foodies Chair Sharon Justice ([dsshj@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:dsshj@austin.utexas.edu)) if you are interested.



Dr. Marcella Madera speaks about lumbar stenosis

## HEALTH

IN THE HEALTH GROUP, OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE SPEAKERS THAT TEACH US about issues related to senior health in order to improve our lives and avoid or cope skillfully with many of the conditions related to aging. Bridget Levien, the clinical dietitian at St.

David's Medical Center, was our February speaker. She spoke on nutrition that helps us to stay well and avoid chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular conditions and kidney complications. In March our speaker was Dr. Marcella Madera, a neurosurgeon at Austin Brain and Spine. She specializes in all spinal approaches and techniques including both open and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Madeira chose to focus on the lower back in her talk, but also discussed spinal and cranial surgeries to treat a variety of other conditions. Our April speaker was Dr. Jacob Manuel, an orthopedic surgeon from St. David's. Dr. Manuel spoke on hip and knee replacement surgeries.

We hope you can join us for upcoming meetings, and if you have friends that are interested, feel free to invite them to join us as well and to participate with questions at the end of the talk. The chairs for the Health Interest Group are Ruth Rubio ([ruthrubio@utexas.edu](mailto:ruthrubio@utexas.edu)) and Linda Millstone ([lmwiseone@gmail.com](mailto:lmwiseone@gmail.com)). They will be happy to provide more information.



RFSA Costa Rica tour members at the Parador Hotel

## TRAVEL

THE TRAVEL GROUP'S BIG TRIP THIS TERM WAS TO COSTA RICA February 8-15. See Marcia Arn's article on p. 22.

The RFSA's second tour in 2017 will be a trip to Ireland from August 22 to September 3, with a group of approximately 30 participating. The group is looking forward to a spectacular trip that will include the entire circumference of the island.

The committee is working on details for a cruise/land trip to Alaska, including Denali, from June 10-23, 2018, and a trip to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks in September 2018. Once those details have been solidified, the travel committee will send out an announcement of dates and more information via Carol Barrett. For details and to find out more about this group, you may contact any of these co-chairs:

Mike & Marcia Arn  
[texmarn@att.net](mailto:texmarn@att.net)  
[MJARN50@hotmail.com](mailto:MJARN50@hotmail.com)  
512-335-0244

Karen & John Harrison  
[kjharrison17@gmail.com](mailto:kjharrison17@gmail.com)  
512-771-2022

## HOLIDAY PARTY

THE RFSA HOLIDAY PARTY ON DECEMBER 6, 2017 AT THE STERLING Events Center was a welcoming and festive occasion as always. This was our second year with Sterling Affairs and our first in this venue. Sterling once again delivered a well-run and convivial ambiance in which to connect with old friends and meet new ones. Our entertainment consisted of two young pianists, Luke Theissen and Pedro Pargmann, who are students at McCallum Fine Arts Academy. They added just the right accompaniment to the occasion. RFSA President Cecil Martinez welcomed us warmly, and then we circulated—table-hopping and snacking as the mood took us. It was just the right amount of holiday cheer to send us back to our own preparations with new energy and a little extra goodwill for the festivities to come. A big thank you goes from all of us to Nancy Payne and Carol Barrett for the logistics that made this event possible.

*(Pictured on right) Then-president Cecil Martinez introducing the two pianists at our annual holiday party*



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## SPRING LUNCH MEETING



(Top to bottom) RFSA members enjoying a good meal and conversation; Dr. James Vick speaks at the RFSA spring lunch

THE RFSA SPRING MEETING AND LUNCH ON APRIL 25, 2017 WENT by without a hitch as usual, thanks to excellent food and service and much socializing at and between tables. Our outgoing president Cecil Martinez welcomed us, thanked the UT President's Office and Texas Exes for their continued support of this event and thanked all of us for giving him the opportunity to serve as our president for the past year. Then he turned the meeting over to Peggy Mueller, who introduced the RFSA scholarship recipients in attendance: Kaylen Parker, a senior in Architecture and Interior Design from Sugar Land, and Houstonian Anna Hiran, a senior Finance and Business Honors major. Peggy also thanked our major scholarship donor the Franklin Lindsay Student Aid Fund and in particular RFSA members Bob Mettlen and Bill Lasher who were our liaisons to the fund.

Cecil returned to the podium to introduce our speaker, Dr. James Vick. Dr. Vick was a professor of mathematics, Associate Dean in the College of Natural Sciences and Vice President for Student Affairs at UT for 17 years. The James W. Vick Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling

was named for him in recognition of his many contributions to the University in that area. In his talk Dr. Vick offered us highlights from his long career at UT. Among these were his participation on the "Mars Team" to create a core values and purpose statement for the University, his key role in initiating a \$1 per semester student fee to fund the Martin Luther King Jr. statue on the campus, and the Student Retention Conference that marked the beginning of FIGS—Freshman Interest Groups, which was Vick's response to the retention challenge for undergraduates at UT Austin. This initiative is still going strong and several member of the audience bore witness to its success. In short, we had the good fortune to hear about a life well lived from the person continuing to live it. Dr. Vick is still reaching out and improving the lives of others, most recently through his work to support Parkinson's disease research.

After Dr. Vick finished his remarks Cecil thanked our corporate sponsors, introduced treasurer Clemith Houston who gave us good news about our finances. Cecil then presented and got approval for our new slate of officers and thanked all the continuing officers and committee chairs for their service. Next came the moment many of us had been waiting for—the drawing for the Dr. John McKetta Attendance Awards. This year's winners were:

Don Davis, *Department of Information/Department of History*  
Ella Quinlan, *Child Development Center*  
Tina Velasquez, *School of Music*  
Dan L. Wheat, *Cockrell School of Engineering*  
Sonja Berry, *School of Social Work*

Finally, it was Cecil's time to pass the presidential baton to his successor, Tany Norwood. Tany had a long and distinguished career at UT, mostly in the Dean of Students'



Cecil Martinez and Tany Norwood

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## SPRING LUNCH MEETING



*McKetta attendance award winners Ella Quinlan, Don Davis, Tina Velasquez, Dan Wheat, Sonja Berry*



*Tany Norwood with Barbara and George Frock*

Office. She retired as an Assistant Dean of Students, collecting too many honors and awards to list here in full. Two highlights of her career were being awarded the Arno Nowotny medal for meritorious service to the Division of Student Affairs, and the UT Friar Society's establishment of the Tany Norwood Staff Appreciation Award, which was created in 2006 and endowed

by the UT System Board of Regents in 2012. With regard to RFSA, she and her husband Bob just made a substantial estate gift to the RFSA scholarship fund to establish the Tany Norwood Scholarship.

As her first official duty, Tany closed the meeting by asking all of us to stand and sing "The Eyes of Texas." Which we did.



*We conclude our meeting with "The Eyes of Texas"*

"I LIKE TO BE WHERE THINGS  
ARE HAPPENING.  
WESTMINSTER PUTS ME  
RIGHT THERE."

DR. MARTHA FREDE

RETIRED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SAGE PROGRAM  
SEMINARS FOR ADULT GROWTH AND ENRICHMENT

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## REMEMBERING MARGARET BERRY



### DR. MARGARET CATHERINE BERRY

AUGUST 8, 1915 - APRIL 9, 2017

*Margaret Berry, as Associate Dean of Students and Developmental Programs Director, posed in front of Battle Hall in 1973.*

LONGTIME UT ADMINISTRATOR, HISTORIAN, RFSA MEMBER AND mentor/friend to so many, Margaret C. Berry died on April 9, 2017 at the age of 101. Born and raised in Dawson, Texas, she graduated from high school as co-valedictorian in 1933. Berry turned down a full scholarship to Baylor University from Pat Neff, former Texas governor and Baylor president, to attend The University of Texas. There she earned a history degree and in 1937 began teaching at Texas elementary schools in El Campo, Freeport, and Galveston. In the summers, Berry traveled to New York to study for her master's degree at Columbia University.

In 1947, Berry began her administrative career at Navarro Junior College as a dean and history instructor. She became dean of women at East Texas State in 1950. After 10 years, Berry returned to Columbia to get her doctorate in higher education. She moved to Austin in 1961 to write her dissertation on student life and customs at The University of

Texas. She started to work at UT as associate dean of women in 1962 and officially retired in 1980, although she continued her association with the University. She taught freshmen seminars on University of Texas history from 1995 to 2002. In retirement she remained active in campus affairs and as a mentor to generations of UT students and served on the Commission of 125, a strategic advisory group of students, faculty members, staff members and alumni.

Known as UT's unofficial historian, Berry wrote four books about UT's history, traditions, leaders, and buildings: *UT Austin: Traditions and Nostalgia*; *The University of Texas: A Pictorial Account of its First Century*; *Brick by Golden Brick: A History of University of Texas Campus Buildings*; and *UT History 101: Highlights in the History of the University of Texas*.

"Margaret Berry touched the lives of tens of thousands of people in the UT Austin community," UT President Gregory L. Fenves said. "As a history graduate who became a beloved teacher, a dean who mentored hundreds of students, and later a university historian and adviser, she made the Forty Acres a better place. Our thoughts are with her family as we remember and celebrate her rich, accomplished life."

"When in her presence, students absorbed her combined passion for them as individuals and for her beloved University of Texas, producing better human beings, a better university, a better world," said Berry's friend and former student Clare Buie Chaney. "She inspired confidence in them that their unique attributes could live up to any challenge; and they'd be having an adventure in the process. Indeed, as one of Dr. Berry's tsunami of surrogate children, I know only too well that 'What starts' with Dr. Berry 'changes the world.'"

—FENVES AND CHANEY QUOTES COURTESY UT NEWS

*RFSA Magazine* salutes her life and legacy with the following tributes and memories:

David Garlock, friend and colleague of Dr. Berry and Magazine Sequence Head, UT School of Journalism: "Margaret's death brought me to tears. She was one of a kind at UT and should not be forgotten!!"

Nancy Kocurek, friend of Dr. Berry and former assistant to the Director of Development, McCombs School of Business: "I am thankful to have known Margaret for so many years. She taught me many things, but mostly she taught me how to age, not only gracefully, but with the same interest and zest for life she exhibited through all her active years! We have truly lost to this world an icon of UT, a talented scholar, teacher and writer, a great human being, and a most wonderful friend. And I think I can hear her saying, 'Oh don't spend time thinking about me—go have a margarita!'"

John Craddock M.D., Houston ENT-Otolaryngologist and former student of Dr. Berry, toasting her at her 100th birthday celebration: "Much of what I learned as a student came from Margaret, who taught me life lessons about bold leadership, fairness, loyalty, responsibility, and compassion during my formative and impressionable years. Margaret had an incredible ability to relate with people across many generations. Seriously now, how many 101-year-old friends

## REMEMBERING MARGARET BERRY



*The UT tower was under construction when Margaret Berry was a student here. It seems only fitting that the University honored her by darkening it at her passing. Photo by Brent Chaney*

do you know who regularly call or text you (frequently after 11:00 pm) just touching base or asking how you are doing? There was an alumnus of my college fraternity who had attended East Texas State University while Dr. Berry was dean of women. The fraternity wanted to have an outdoor dance on the patio of the student union. Dr. Berry was giving them resistance. When students asked her what problem she had with them having a dance on the patio, she replied, “You never know what could happen in these situations. The kids might start dancing in the flower beds.” To which my friend, replied, “Now, seriously, Dean Berry, how many people do you know that like to dance in flower beds?” She relented and the fraternity had their outdoor dance on the student union patio.”

Kevin Brown, executor of Dr. Berry’s estate, met her as a high school senior when she presented him with a Texas Exes scholarship. At her funeral, he read the following statement from Robert S. Brown, a longtime friend of Dr. Berry: “Though neither a parent or grandparent, she nonetheless was loved by thousands, who as adults—or more likely as a college-aged youth—came in contact with her over the last century. She shied away from attention as she found it embarrassing to be the focus of excessive accolades, yet was honored countless times by individuals and institutions for her contributions. Her gifts, both personal and professional, were many.”

Rick Potter, president of Potter & Company (commercial real estate) and former student of Dr. Berry: “I first met Margaret Berry while a student at The University of Texas at Austin during the Spring semester of 1975 more than 40 years ago. I remember walking into her office on the first floor of the UT Tower to request permission to be admitted

into her seminar class, “Self and the Campus Society”. Her warm, friendly smile greeting me was the beginning of a life-long relationship. Selfishly, although we have had her for an incredible life span of 101 1/2 years, it seems we could have never had her long enough—just another two or five or ten more years. Thankfully, Margaret’s health held up until very near the end of her life, and, when the Lord took her, she ascended peacefully into Heaven.”

Katherine Tally Schweiger: “My relationship with Dr. Berry, and she will always be Dr. Berry to me, began in the late 70s when I became head of a student organization where she was the faculty sponsor. I went to see her one day in her UT Tower office to discuss a club project with her. She told me, ‘Don’t do anything that would attract the attention of the campus police,’ adding with a twinkle in her eye, ‘and if you do, don’t get caught!’ I knew right then and there I was going to like this woman.”

Peggy Mueller, retired special programs officer, University of Texas Libraries: “Margaret always made me feel special—like she really knew me and was proud of me. I was lucky enough to be given several opportunities to hear her speak about campus history and her life on campus: a seminar class for UT’s Human Resources which had to be extended to a second session because we asked so many questions and enjoyed her lively presentation; a talk for Littlefield Residence Hall alumni and residents at a reunion; at the dedication of the Student Activities Building atrium, named for her. I always stayed longer for just another minute with this lovely woman and jolly friend; the twinkle in her eyes drew me to her.”

Linda Peterson, retired photo archivist, Briscoe Center for American History: “Dr. Berry used to come in occasionally to do research when I worked at the Briscoe Center. One Saturday I was at the reference desk and noticed she was wearing ear buds. Now of course that was against the rules, but seeing as how it was Margaret Berry I didn’t say anything. I just assumed that this tall, elegantly dressed, and widely respected historian was listening to KMFA. That is until she jumped up from her chair and flashed a hook’em sign. That’s right—she was listening to the football game. A true Longhorn—it was a great moment.”

Marilyn White, friend of Dr. Berry, in a letter to the editor of *Alcalde*: “Old age is a gift to Dr. Margaret Berry and she is a gift to the university. My guess is that she has more UT friends than anyone else in the world. I treasure the hours we spent working on scholarships together. When she comes to an event, the room is a brighter, happier place.”

Nancy (Price) Murrow: “Margaret Berry was my history teacher at Ball High School in Galveston in the early 1940s where she was very well liked. Through our church connection my parents and I continued our friendship all these many years. What a lovely gracious woman!”

*Anyone wanting more information about Dr. Berry can access her archive at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and get a preview of what this resource contains through the online finding aid at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utcah/00983/cah-00983.html>.*

## THINKING OF MARGARET

By Jim Nicar, unofficial UT historian and blogger at *The UT History Corner*  
[jimnicar.com/tag/jim-nicar/](http://jimnicar.com/tag/jim-nicar/)

TO MY FELLOW UT STUDENTS, SHE WAS THE “cacciatore lady.” I soon discovered why.

In the 1980s, Margaret Berry, who claimed to have retired from her career at The University of Texas, was still an active volunteer advisor for several student organizations—the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and the Orange Jackets women’s service society, among them—and every semester loved to invite each group to her house for dinner. It was at one of these gatherings that I, along with so many others, fell under Margaret’s spell.

Her oak-shaded north Austin home on Greenflint Lane was immaculately tended. She personally met each student, greeted them with a genuine smile, and invited them to explore the house and backyard. “My cat, Benji, is here, somewhere. Probably hiding under the bed!” And then she hurried off to the kitchen. “Is anyone hungry?”



Margaret, as usual, served baked chicken cacciatore, deftly handling multiple casserole dishes in and out of the oven, and spooning out large portions onto orange Wedgwood plates that featured detailed images of the university campus: the old Main Building (pictured), Gregory Gym, the UT Tower, Littlefield Fountain. Only later did we learn

that the plates dated from 1937 and were actually expensive collectables. “What building is this?” someone would ask. “That’s old B. Hall,” Margaret explained. “It’s not on campus anymore, but let me tell you about it.”

Along with endless helpings of cacciatore—“Getcha some more. There’s plenty!”—Margaret provided salad and green beans. Bottles of soft drinks, cups, and ice were lined up on the kitchen counter, “and there’s tea in the refrigerator. Remember, T-sips drink tea.”

After dinner, the group gathered in the den to hear Margaret relate a bit about her student days at the University, her time as Associate Dean of Students, and give unsolicited but well-received advice. “Get involved on campus. Take on leadership roles in your group,” she encouraged. “Get to know your professors!” she admonished. “It’s a big university; explore every part of it you can,” she counseled. To her thirty to forty student guests, she was greeter, hostess, chef, historian, advisor, and life coach all at once. And she played each role effortlessly, and with a sincerity that left her guests inspired. “Dr. Berry is quite a lady,” one of my student friends remarked on the way home.



A fourth-generation Texan, born August 8, 1915, Margaret Catherine Berry was raised in the tiny town of Dawson—about 30 miles northeast of Waco—and showed her academic prowess early by graduating from high school as co-valedictorian. Along the way, Margaret also learned well what it meant to be Texas friendly, something she shared in abundance with everyone.

A freshman on The University of Texas campus in 1933, some of Margaret’s first semester classes were held in the old Main Building, just before it was closed and razed. Along with her studies, she joined the YWCA, Mortar Board, and was especially active with the Orange Jackets. Four years later, in the spring of 1937, Margaret

graduated with a degree in history, having witnessed the dedication of a new Main Building and Tower just months beforehand.

For a few years, Margaret taught in public schools along the Gulf coast—El Campo, Freeport, and Galveston—while spending summers at Columbia University in New York to complete her master’s degree in education. One summer she worked for *Newsweek* magazine and seriously considered remaining in the Big Apple, but Texas beckoned for her return.

In 1947, she was appointed Dean of Women and an instructor of history at Navarro Junior College, and then became Dean of Women at East Texas State Teachers College (now Texas A&M University—Commerce) in 1950. For the next decade, Margaret was a legendary figure on East Texas State campus. She was called the “lean dean,” or the “mean dean”—depending on the circumstances—and knew each coed’s GPA, whom they were dating, and if they’d violated any dorm curfews. At the same time, Margaret took a deep interest in the education of her students and strived to be a role model for everyone.

In 1961, Margaret finally returned to Austin and juggled three responsibilities. She’d been appointed Associate Dean of Women at The University of Texas, was caring for her aging parents, and decided to complete her doctorate degree in education at Columbia.

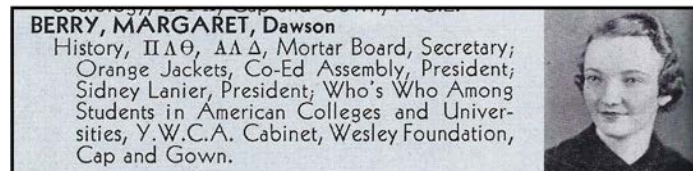
Margaret finished her dissertation in 1965, *Student Life and Customs at the University of Texas: 1883-1933*. It was the first survey of UT student life, required many hours of research in the University’s archives, and instilled a deep understanding and appreciation for the University of Texas. “What is a university? Like any living thing, an academic institution is comprehensible only in terms of its history,” said former Harvard president James Conant. Margaret understood this all too well. Her dissertation later became the foundation for her book, *UT Austin: Traditions and Nostalgia*, a staple in bookstores along the Drag for decades.

As part of the Dean of Students office, Margaret was best-known for her course “Self and the Campus Society.” It was intended to prepare UT students for leadership positions on campus and after graduation, but her infectious enthusiasm

## THINKING OF MARGARET



The UT campus in 1933, Margaret Berry's freshman year. The old Main Building still stood on the top of hill, while the Littlefield Fountain was new.



Margaret Berry's senior photo in the 1937 Cactus yearbook.

for the University, and the example she set as doing her best and always thinking of others, garnered Margaret a legion of adoring fans. "I thought you were the quintessence of a lady and a scholar," wrote one of her students many years later. "Indeed, you have become my living definition of those two words, and my highest aspiration is to be a fraction of the example you set."

In addition to her course, Margaret created the first telephone counseling service for UT students, authored the first handbook of student rights and responsibilities, was a regular speaker at the summer Honors Colloquium and freshman orientation, and volunteered as an advisor for student organizations.



Margaret Berry at a 1967 Texas Union event. That's a straw hat on her head with "Hook 'em Horns!" in large letters.

Acres and in Austin. She served as president of the Austin Woman's Club and the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, was indispensable on the Texas Exes Scholarship Committee and UT Heritage Society, and was an active volunteer with

In the 1970s, former UT Chancellor Harry Ransom asked Margaret to assemble an illustrated history of the University. The book, published by UT Press, appeared in 1981. She also authored *Brick by Golden Brick* (a resource compilation on UT buildings), *UT History 101*, and *The University of Texas Trivia Book*, as well as histories of the Scottish Rite Dormitory and University United Methodist Church.

Though she officially "retired" in 1980, Margaret continued to be a popular personality on the Forty



Margaret Berry in front of students in 1980.

the University United Methodist Church, where she was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Board. In March 1981, the men of the Tejas Club, a student organization, asked her to be the guest speaker at the first annual Texas Independence Day Breakfast for faculty and students. The tradition continued through this year, when Margaret led the assembly in a "Toast to Texas." (A decade ago the Club made her an honorary member.) In 1995, at the request of the provost's office—and at the spry age of 80—Margaret agreed to teach a freshman seminar from 1995–2002.

Her contributions didn't go unnoticed. Both the Orange Jackets and Texas Exes have endowed scholarships named for her, and she was awarded the Arno Nowotny Medal, given to staff of the Division of Student Affairs "who render meritorious service." In 1996, Margaret was a recipient of a Distinguished Alumn Award, the highest honor afforded by the Texas Exes, and in 2004 was dubbed Austin's Most Worthy Citizen. In April 2012, the atrium in the newly-completed Student Activity Center was named in her honor, and at the dedication ceremony, Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell officially declared it "Margaret Berry Day" in the city.

On August 8, 2015, Margaret Berry marked her 100th lap around the sun. Hundreds of former students, University colleagues, and Austin friends gathered at the alumni center to help her celebrate. Like a Christmas Santa at a shopping mall, everyone waited in line to take a turn, sit with Margaret for a photograph, and tell her how much they loved her and the positive impact she'd had on their lives. As part of the formal program, UT President Greg Fenves arrived with a surprise. Margaret had planned to leave the University a \$50,000 bequest to endow a scholarship in religious studies named in honor of her parents, but her friends had been busy and raised more than twice that amount. President Fenves officially announced the creation of the Lillian and Winfred Berry Endowed Presidential Scholarship.

Margaret approached the podium and, with tear-filled eyes, said "thank you," but, truly, it was the University community and her many friends, generations of UT students touched by her spell, who, collectively, were trying to express their gratitude to her.

Yes. Dr. Berry was indeed quite a lady.

## THINKING OF MARGARET



*In April 2012, the Longhorn Band, UT cheerleaders, and an overflow crowd attended the dedication ceremony of the Margaret Berry Atrium in the Student Activities Center. Margaret is seated with UT President Bill Powers on the left, and Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell on the right.*



*March 2, 2017—a 101-year-old Margaret Berry is surrounded by members of the Tejas Club after the Texas Independence Day breakfast to honor UT faculty and students.*



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BY MARCIA ARN

PHOTOS BY GARY HENDRIX  
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## *RFSA Visits*

# COSTA RICA

WE ARRIVED IN THIS LAND OF SPECTACULAR FLOWERS, ABUNDANT wildlife and bird-filled trees and skies on February 8, 2017. Our plane touched down at San Jose, the capital and largest city of Costa Rica, where we were immediately greeted with views of lush and lovely flowering plants. Our bus driver Eduardo met us at the airport. He was a very good singer, and we learned that he was part of a singing group. He later sang a short song to us, as well as happy birthday to two of our group celebrating their birthdays. Our tour guide was named José, but he went by Macho. In Costa Rica, macho means blonde, which was the color of his hair as a child.

The next morning we drove on a road that wound around the mountains to Poás Volcano Park, where we walked up a path to multileveled lookouts into the Poás caldera, one of the five active volcanoes in Costa Rica and the widest at 9/10th of a mile, with a green acid crater lake in the middle.

There was a sign at the lookout saying not to stay longer than 20 minutes (due to the fumes from the lake). It was ruggedly beautiful and we were lucky to have a clear, unclouded view. We drove through Costa Rica's Central Valley, which is surrounded by four provinces, on our way to the Doka Estate Coffee Farm. Doka Estate is the largest coffee growing estate



(Top) Arenal volcano from the back yard of our bungalow at the Arenal Manoa (Photo by Marcia Arn); (Bottom) Egrets in a tree of Arenal Manoa.

in Costa Rica. There we learned that coffee plants can take seven years to mature from seeds to the coffee cherry bearing plant ready for harvest. Karen Bluethman was chosen to put a basket around her waist and pick some of the red cherries.

The pickers earn \$2 per full basket, the prevailing wage for Honduran coffee pickers. Depending on their experience and the number of cherries, they can pick several baskets a day. The cherries have the beans inside them, most with two, but some with only one. The single beans are called peaberries and have a superior taste. We viewed the method by which cherries and beans are processed and had the chance to buy some bags of different blends of coffee. Starbucks purchases 80% of the coffee beans produced by Doka Estate.

Following our tour of Doka, we drove north in our tour bus to La Fortuna where our Arenal Manoa Hotel was located. This proved to be an interesting but kind of scary experience. We had to proceed slowly on the narrow winding mountain roads with hairpin turns and narrow one-lane bridges. The tour buses in Costa Rica have their rearview mirrors mounted on the front of the bus on each side and going down the front about two feet so that they are not torn off when passing another tour bus.

## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA

Thanks to our driver Eduardo's excellent skills, we made it without incident that evening to our hotel. The hotel had a great view of the Arenal Volcano, the most active volcano in Costa Rica, which we observed before we got the keys to our bungalows.

We spent the next three nights at the Arenal Manoa Hotel, enjoying walks to the restaurant past beautiful green and blooming plants, multicolored green and orange bamboo plants, and a lagoon with snowy white egrets, ducks, and caimans (small crocodiles) that a few people saw.

The restaurant was open at the back so that it overlooked a lagoon and had a view of Arenal Volcano. We also saw many colorful birds flying near the restaurant, which pleased the photographers in our group. Even though it had been raining off and on, we traveled to the base of the volcano for a 90-minute hike in the rain forest. The halfway spot was up and over some rocks where we were required to stop because if the volcano decided to spew lava at that point, it would reach us in 10 minutes. Arenal last erupted in 1968 and still emits steam and gases from holes in the Earth's crust. Back on the bus, four brave people decided to zip line that afternoon and



Tour guide José and bus driver Eduardo

they luckily had no rain once they got there. Five others went on the hanging bridges tour and although they got rained on, they thoroughly enjoyed the hike with a naturalist guide, who pointed out flora and fauna along the way. Some who skipped the tours spent time relaxing in the hot springs pool at the hotel, where they saw some toucans.

Saturday the skies cleared and we could see the top of Arenal Volcano from our hotel. Our first stop that day was Canyon Negro for a boat ride on Rio Frio (Cold River). Mango was the nickname of our boat pilot. Our guide Macho pointed out wildlife. We saw many anhingas and other kinds of birds, caimans, monkeys, lizards, and small long-nosed bats in a vertical row on a tree trunk.

We went as far as the Nicaraguan border, which was indicated by a large sign on the riverbank and a cement



*(Above) Poás Volcano with crater lake*



*Great blue heron*



*Scarlet-rumped tanager*



*Snowy egret*

## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA

marker. Then we went back to Canyon Negro. After a stop at a restaurant for an open-air lunch that included a Costa Rican staple of rice and beans, we continued our drive and saw pineapple fields that produce fruit every 10 months, orange trees, sugar cane, and teak trees.

We made a short stop in the town of Muelle to view iguanas up close, and then continued back to La Fortuna where we spent time sightseeing and souvenir shopping. At dinner that night each of our plates were decorated with a butterfly made out of a carrot.

Sunday we traveled across the country, making a few stops along the way to Playa Azul for a Jungle Crocodile Safari on the Tarcoles River. We saw several crocs, including a very old and large one named Osama sunning himself on the riverbank. Moving on, we saw palm oil tree fields and more, finally arriving at the Spanish-style Parador Hotel where we would stay for our last three nights. The hotel was built on the side of a mountain and some members of our group had to take an outdoor elevator up to their fourth floor rooms.

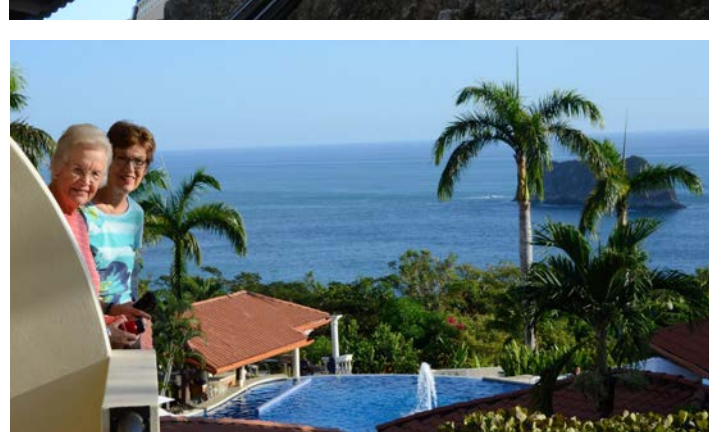
Monday was a free day and people did various optional tours or relaxed at the hotel. Tuesday we hiked in Manuel Antonio Park where we saw more animals and a beach with some raccoons who tried to steal people's food and monkeys playing in the trees and walking on the rope handrail by the path. Wednesday we traveled back to San Jose to the airport to go home with our memories of a wonderful trip.



*Karen Bluethman picking coffee berries at Doka Estate (Photo by Marcia Arn)*



*Morning glory vine*



*(Upper) Parador Hotel elevator (Photo by Marcia Arn)  
(Lower) Carol Kay Johnson and Barbara A. White on the Parador Hotel balcony*

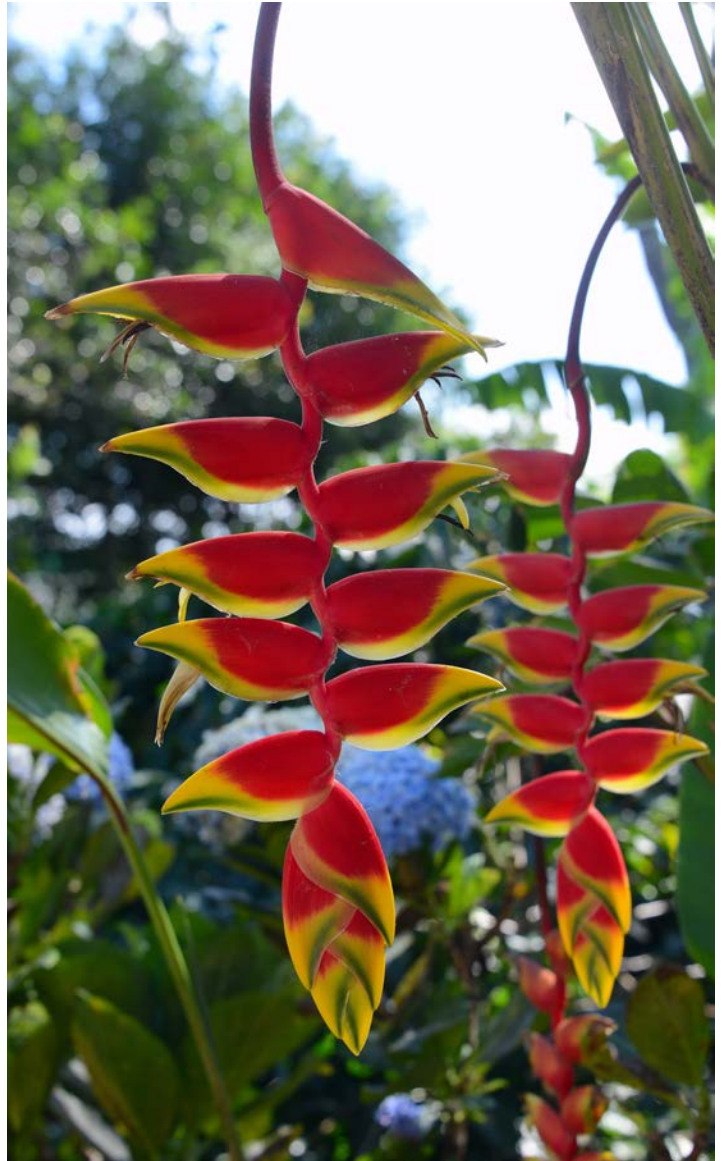
## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA



*Hibiscus*



*Orchid*



*Heliconia*



*Bougainvillea (Photo by Marcia Arn)*



*Flowers on the road to Poás Volcano Park (Photo by Marcia Arn)*

## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA

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*One of many iguanas we saw that day*



*Caiman looking friendly*



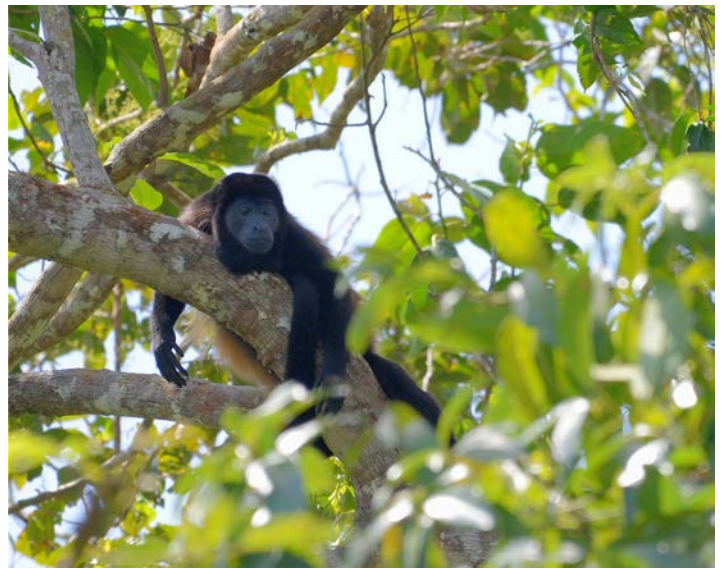
*Sloth in a tree, enjoying its moment*



*Monkey on a rope*



*Monkeys literally hanging out (Photo by Marcia Arn)*



*Pensive monkey lounging in a tree*

## RFSA VISITS COSTA RICA

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*Black-cheeked lovebird*



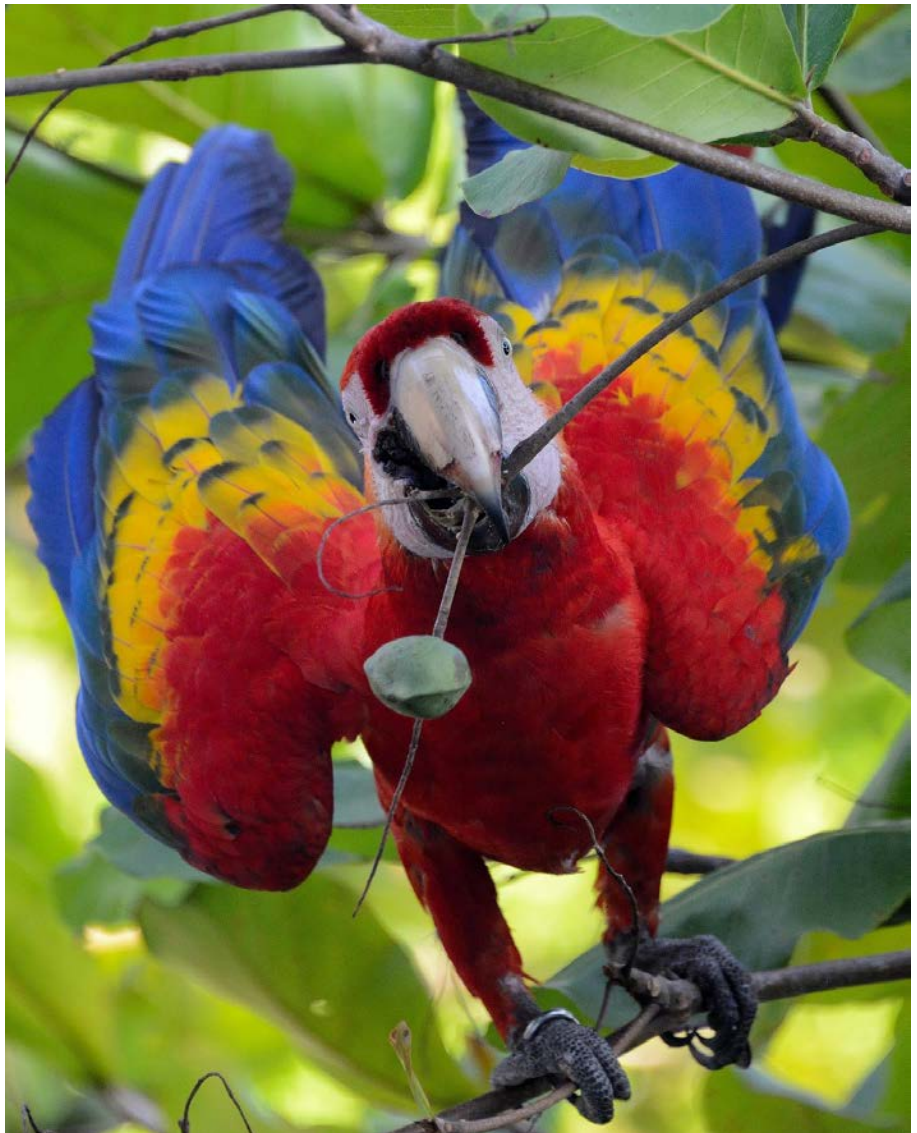
*Summer tanager*



*Anhinga on Rio Frio tour*



*Male anhinga on Rio Frio*



*Scarlet macaw*

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## RFSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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### FRANKLIN LINDSAY STUDENT AID FUND

RFSA has received a generous gift of \$11,080 to its scholarship fund from the Franklin Lindsay Student Aid Fund. The funds are designated for use over the 2017 calendar year and are restricted to scholarships. Special thanks go to two RSFA 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. This is the second year we have received a grant from the Franklin Lindsay Fund. Currently there are 20 UT students receiving \$50,000 in RFSA scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year.

### TANY NORWOOD SCHOLARSHIP BEQUEST

As part of the Forty Hours for Forty Acres campaign, RFSA President Tany Norwood and her husband Bob have named University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association as beneficiary of approximately \$50,000 to establish the Tany Norwood Scholarship through their estate.

Speaking of their gift Tany said, "We love UT and all it has given us, and we also love RFSA and the amazing scholarship fund. Although this bequest won't become a reality for (hopefully!) several years, we hope and believe it will make a difference in many students' lives."

RFSA is extremely grateful for this generous bequest from Tany and Bob.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONORS!

(Gifts received November 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017)

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*In memory of Dean Justice*  
Nancy Payne  
*In memory of Dean Justice*

Linda Peterson  
*In honor of Peggy Mueller and  
Tany Norwood*

Jennifer B. Scalora  
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*In honor of Carol Barrett  
and in memory of Norman Martin*  
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## HOME OF UT ARCHIVES GETS AN UPGRADE



BY LINDA PETERSON

*Briscoe Center facade and entrance (Photo by Jay Godwin)*

FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL “CAMPAIGN TO MAKE HISTORY” and a comprehensive 18-month renovation, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin opened its new first floor on April 10, 2017. The Briscoe Center, home to the institutional archives that document UT-Austin’s history and development, finally has a gateway that equals in quality the scope and content of its numerous and wide-ranging collections. Some readers may remember when this institution was called the Barker Texas History Center, or more recently the Center for American History. Please be advised that things have changed—in a very good way.

The Center chose Austin-based McKinney York Architects to guide the work based on the firm’s involvement in other campus projects and its sensitivity and attention to style as well as function in the spaces on which it had worked. They delivered on the promise of their reputation by opening up 4,000 square feet of elegant and utilitarian space that completely transforms the interior of the notoriously challenging Sid Richardson Hall infrastructure. One of the most important changes McKinney York made to the original floor plan was to reorient the space so that the entrance is now on the LBJ School of Public Affairs breezeway side. This makes the Center a more pedestrian-friendly venue, catching the attention of many visitors on their way to the LBJ Presidential Library; this one change alone reportedly has drawn a large number of visitors to a destination they might otherwise have missed when the entrance faced the campus.

Anyone who previously came to the Center for research, meetings, or to view exhibits will be in for a surprise to put it mildly. Dolph Briscoe Center for American History’s Associate Director Brenda Gunn’s favorite words to describe the

newly renovated first floor of her institution are “humane, friendly, calm.” To which I would add “spacious, spectacular, user-friendly and state of the art.” The Reading Room alone is worth a visit for its sleek but subtle LED desk lamps and abundant natural lighting, ergonomic chairs, and map table large enough to accommodate any size of map, chart or piece of ephemera that might be of use to a researcher.

The exhibit space is configured into galleries to create the best possible visitor experience and showcase the many collection strengths of the Center. Currently on display are “Exploring the American South,” which draws on one of the Center’s main collecting areas; “Imagined Communities: Selections from the Weatherby Map Collection;” and yes—that controversial Jefferson

Davis statue, which has been conserved and situated securely in the educational context explaining its history and the decision to remove it from the South Mall in 2015. The remaining spaces can hold more than 100 people for events such as lectures, social events, and film screenings if the wall between the meeting room and a “smart” classroom equipped with all the latest pedagogical technology is folded into the ceiling.

In an interview with UT News, President Gregory L. Fenves called the Briscoe Center “a treasured resource, not only for our UT students, faculty, and staff, but for scholars around the country.” He praised the planning, fundraising and perseverance of the Center’s staff and supporters for making possible the creation of exhibit and research spaces that support its public educational mission. Commenting on the long and at times difficult fundraising and construction process, Associate Director Gunn said, “It’s the power of community that makes things like this happen.” Many donations—from small to large—add up, she said, and ongoing philanthropy is relied upon to continue to create great exhibits and programs, as well as conserving and making available new collections for research.

RFSA members with questions about the history of UT will find their answers here. In addition to UT’s archives, the Center has world-class holdings in Southern history, the history of Texas and the American West, congressional and other political history, the history of the news media and photojournalism, the history of the energy industry, and so much more. The Briscoe also provides unique and valuable assistance to genealogists and even in some cases to folks who are researching Spanish land titles via the voluminous Bexar Archives. So, make time for a visit one day soon. You will not be disappointed. For more information on the Briscoe Center and to plan your visit, see [www.cah.utexas.edu](http://www.cah.utexas.edu).



*"Exploring the American South" exhibit cases (Photo by Victoria Davis)*



*Briscoe Center reading room (Photo by Paul Wentzel)*

## UT REMEMBERS

For the second year, twenty-seven RFSA members added orange and white ribbons to commemorative bookmarks and fashioned orange ribbon remembrance loops to pin onto schedule cards. On April 26 and April 28 we gathered around the dining room table in the historic Littlefield Home on campus to lend our hands to this activity. Both of these items were given to many guests during the UT Remembers ceremonies held on Friday, May 5, 2017.

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 Ceremony is held from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the Tower Garden (south of the Tower near the turtle ponds). As daylight fades

into the evening, the Tower remains dark in honor of those we remember. This year at 8:30 p.m., the Guild of Student Carillonneurs presented a special UT Remembers concert on the Tower Carillon, in memory of Thomas Wynn "Tom" Anderson, longtime University Carilloner.

Many thanks to our RFSA members and friends who helped this year. We plan to assist University Events with preparing these materials again next year. Watch for announcements in RFSA emails in April 2018 and sign up.

*For more information about UT Remembers, see [utremembers.utexas.edu/](http://utremembers.utexas.edu/).*

## 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: [sites.utexas.edu/RFSA/](http://sites.utexas.edu/RFSA/).* Please also see the RFSA website for additional digital content under the "Etc." tab. In this issue, look for full text of tributes and eulogies to Dr. Margaret Berry.

And if you are a Facebook user, you can access our Facebook page and join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131246400563201/members/>, or by searching groups for "University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association". 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.

## IN MEMORIAM

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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](mailto:bfrock@austin.rr.com).

**Billy Howard Amstead, 95**

*Professor Emeritus,  
Mechanical Engineering  
November 10, 2016*

**George Pope Atkins, 82**

*Research Fellow,  
UT Institute of Latin American Studies  
December 3, 2016*

**Robert D. Auerbach, 88**

*Professor Emeritus,  
LBJ School of Public Affairs  
January 20, 2017*

**Margaret Berry, 101**

*Director of Developmental Programs,  
Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs and  
Associate Dean of Women  
April 9, 2017*

**George Warren Blankenship, Jr., 91**

*Engineer and Research Scientist,  
Applied Research Laboratories  
March 9, 2017*

**Ned Hamilton Burns, 83**

*Zarrow Centennial Professor and  
Professor Emeritus, Engineering  
November 5, 2016*

**Shelby H. Carter, Jr., 85**

*Adjunct Professor,  
Marketing Administration  
January 25, 2017*

**Constance Taylor**

**“Connie” Croslin, 80**  
*Executive Assistant,  
Office of the President  
January 21, 2017*

**Terry Newsom Edgar, 71**

*Staff, Development  
September 29, 2016*

**Martin Escamilla, 62**

*Staff, Physical Plant, Maintenance  
November 15, 2016*

**Gerhard J. Fonken, 88**

*Executive Vice President and Provost;  
Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus, Chemistry  
April 13, 2017*

**George K. Herbert, 91**

*Professor Emeritus,  
School of Social Work  
March 18, 2017*

**Jean V. Herold, 92**

*Professional Librarian,  
University of Texas Libraries  
February 6, 2017*

**Stanley Houser Huntsman, 84**

*UT Head Track Coach  
November 23, 2016*

**Cynthia Kay Gerhardt Jay, 67**

*Director of the Historical Textiles and  
Apparel Collection and Senior Lecturer,  
School of Human Ecology  
February 20, 2017*

**Charles Aubrey Lemaistre, M.D., 92**

*Chancellor, UT System; President of  
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center  
January 28, 2017*

**Albert Harris Lundstedt, 91**

*Athletics Department Ticket Manager,  
Business Manager and Director of Events  
April 13, 2017*

**James Warren Martindale, 66**

*Technician, Audio Visual Library  
March 31, 2017*

## IN MEMORIAM

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**Chester M. McKinney, Jr., 96**

*Director, Defense Research Laboratory/  
Applied Research Laboratories*  
January 21, 2017

**Harry Middleton, 95**

*Director, LBJ Library and Museum,  
Senior Lecturer in Humanities Honors  
Program*  
January 20, 2017

**Margaret Ann Miller, 71**

*Administrative Associate, UT  
Telecampus, UT System*  
November 25, 2016

**Alfred Wilson Nolle, 97**

*Professor Emeritus, Physics*  
February 11, 2017

**Dr. Thomas J. O'Hare, 79**

*Associate Professor Emeritus, German*  
March 14, 2017

**Dr. Willard J. Pannabecker, 77**

*Adjunct Assistant Professor,  
Educational Psychology*  
December 24, 2016

**Richard Lee Park, Sr., 75**

*Staff, Police Department*  
March 11, 2017

**Eileen W. Patterson, 103**

*Widow of Woodrow "Woody"  
Patterson, Adjunct Professor,  
School of Law*  
March 17, 2017

**Janet Dittlinger Ragsdale, 92**

*Widow of Ken Ragsdale;  
Social Science/ Humanities Research  
Associate, Texas History*  
March 30, 2017

**Lanny Lee Sandefur, 67**

*Cryogenics Lab Manager,  
Physics Department*  
December 21, 2016

**Viola Sauls, 95**

*Widow of John Sauls, Painter Supervisor,  
Maintenance Department*  
November 22, 2016

**Dorris Parke Schrank, 99**

*Widow of Dr. A. R. Schrank, Professor  
Emeritus, Zoology, and Dean of Natural  
Sciences*  
October 15, 2016

**Samuel Herschel Shanblum, 96**

*Husband of Bertha Shanblum,  
Department of Human Development*  
March 12, 2017

**Lawrence Charles Shepley, 77**

*Associate Professor, Physics*  
December 30, 2016

**Marilyn Arlene Snipes, 75**

*Staff, Applied Research Laboratories*  
December 21, 2016

**Ishmael Herrera Soto, 84**

*Assistant Professor of Art*  
February 27, 2017

**Hugh Cullen Sparks, Ph.D., 70**

*Administrative Associate,  
Butler School of Music*  
December 4, 2016

**Angel Spassov, 75**

*Assistant Coach,  
Intercollegiate Athletics for Women*  
February 11, 2017

**Richard Paul Steyer, 95**

*Machinist, Applied Research  
Laboratories*  
March 31, 2017

**George Edward Strandtmann, 98**

*Director, Defense Research Laboratory*  
March 20, 2017

**John Treviño, Jr., 78**

*Coordinator, Historically  
Underutilized Business (HUB) Program*  
April 4, 2017

**Charles H. Warlick, Ph.D., 86**

*Director, Computation Center*  
January 6, 2017

**Dr. Thomas Bacon Whitbread, 85**

*Professor of English*  
October 1, 2016

**Joseph Roger Williams, 88**

*Office of Facilities, Planning &  
Construction, UT System*  
March 18, 2017

**Donald B. Wright, 88**

*Associate Professor, Music Department*  
November 25, 2016

*Dr. Peter Flawn, former UT president and longtime RFSA member, passed away on May 7, 2017, after our deadline. Please look for an article on Dr. Flawn in the fall issue of RFSA Magazine.*

## RFSA

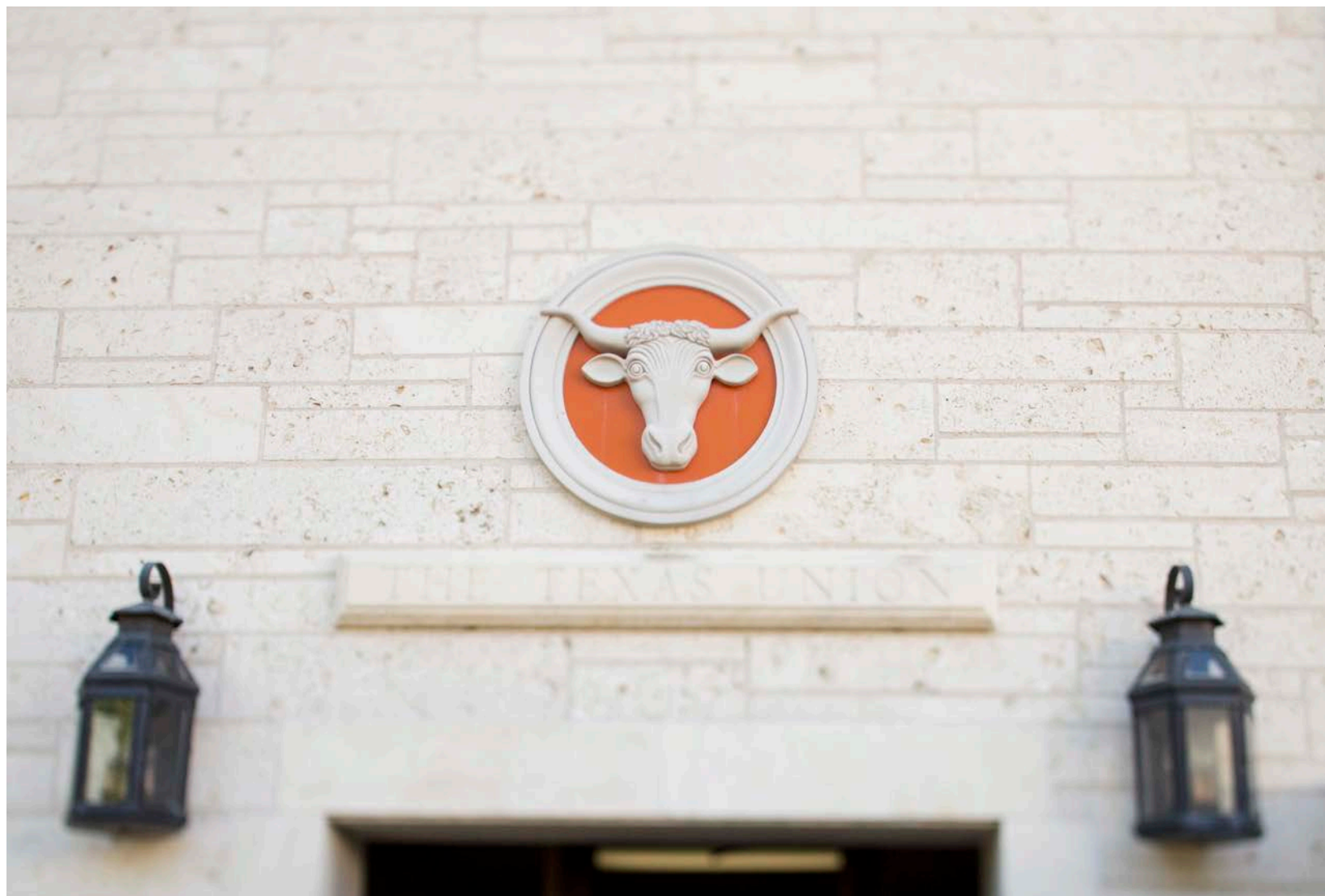
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### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

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](mailto:lp78757@gmail.com) or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes / P.O. Box 7278 / Austin, TX 78713*

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