



*Dr. John J. McKetta, Jr. is a legendary figure for The University of Texas and for the Retired Faculty-Staff Association. His death, in January 2019, at the age of 103, was the end of an extraordinary life, but his legacy continues through UT's McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering and the Dr. John and Helen McKetta Scholarship for Students within the RFSA Scholarship Fund. Additionally, he was a generous and regular contributor to the RFSA Scholarship Fund with frequent memorial and honorary contributions.*

*Dr. McKetta, or Johnny as he was called by his many friends, served as RFSA President in 1991-92. He continued his service to the organization in 2001 as its Treasurer and is remembered for his witty and humorous financial reports at RFSA luncheons. After retiring from his Treasurer position in 2017, he became RFSA Treasurer Emeritus.*

*In 2013, he created the McKetta Attendance Awards for RFSA attendees at the fall and spring luncheons. The awards were created to honor five very important people in his life: Ruth Crawford, Barbara Myers, Carol Barrett, Judy Amis, and Susan Clevenger. Five recipients are chosen by a random drawing of attendees at each luncheon and each receives \$200. These special awards will continue to be a part of our luncheons through the support of the Helen S. and John J. McKetta, Jr. Charitable Foundation. As reported in our 2013 Fall RFSA Magazine, "RFSA thanks Dr. McKetta for his long service and generosity. His gentle humor, intellect, and spirit have been an inspiration to us all."*

*We greatly miss him.*

# The University of Texas at Austin Retired Faculty-Staff Association

## Annual Report 2018-19



**Mission Statement**

*The Retired Faculty-Staff Association  
of The University of Texas at Austin  
provides the point of connection, continuity and communication  
for the mutual benefit of the members and The University.*



**The University of Texas at Austin Retired Faculty-Staff Association (RFSA)** is a member organization officially founded in 1982. It is open to all individuals who have retired from The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas System Office, including those on modified service or phased retirement, and their spouses or significant others. Additional membership categories include retirees from other UT component institutions or other academic institutions and retired persons who have been/are supporters of RFSA or UT. RFSA operates under the Office of the President of the University and is administered by The Ex-Students’ Association. RFSA’s constitution defines the purpose as to render service to UT, enrich the retirement experience of members, and provide feedback to UT officials. In 2018-19, RFSA had 480 members. Please refer to the RFSA website ([sites.utexas.edu/rfsa](http://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa)) for more information. Membership in RFSA is free for the first year post-retirement, with a modest annual membership fee in following years.

*Cover photo by Belinda Gonzalez Lehmkuhle*

The **RFSA Membership Committee** communicates the advantages, activities and benefits of joining RFSA. By staying connected to UT through RFSA, members visit with former colleagues and friends and learn more about current university enterprises. The University benefits from RFSA members’ support and influence on the university’s behalf, which takes various forms such as volunteer service and monetary contributions. RFSA member activities include:

- Presenting information about RFSA at “Retiring from UT Austin” classes and the UT Health and Lifestyle Expos;
- Participating in the Hearts of Texas (HOT) State Employee Charitable Campaign;
- Providing opportunities for retirees to acquire ID cards from the ID Center’s temporary location at our luncheons;
- Coordinating RFSA volunteers to make mementos for UT Remembers, and soliciting gift and gift card donations to Orange Santa at the annual holiday social.

*Chairs: Peggy Mueller and Peggy Kruger*

**RFSA 2018-2019 Financial Summary**

Revenue for RFSA comes from various sources, primarily membership dues, business sponsors and the Helen S. and John J. McKetta, Jr. Charitable Foundation. The organization’s primary expenses are the RFSA Scholarship matching funds, publication and mailing of the RFSA magazine and directory and the Holiday Social. The following is a summary of 2018-19 financial information:

Balance as of 9/1/18	\$57,000
Income	\$23,000
Expenses	\$58,000
Estimated balance as of 8/31/19	\$22,000

*Treasurers: Clemith Houston and Tany Norwood; Treasurer Emeritus: John McKetta*

RFSA has developed mutually beneficial relationships with a limited number of business sponsors. We select those that are locally owned or have a history of excellent service.

Our 2018-2019 sponsors are:

- Austin Hearing Services
- Covert Auto Group
- FastPark and Relax
- Karavel Shoes
- Mr. Appliance
- St. David’s Health Care
- Stan’s Heating and Cooling
- University Federal Credit Union
- Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes and Cremations Services
- Westminster

*Sponsorship Chair: Cecil Martinez*

**2018-19 RFSA Officers** not previously listed:

<i>President</i> – Ruth J. Rubio	<i>Historian</i> – Barbara Frock
<i>President-Elect</i> – Eleanor Moore	<i>Historian Emerita</i> – Martha Boyd
<i>Past President</i> – Tany Norwood	<i>Activity Calendar</i> – Barbara & George Frock
<i>Secretary</i> – Corky Hilliard	
<i>Photographer &amp; Website</i> – Miles Abernathy and Joyce McClendon	
<i>Members at Large</i> – Sharon Justice, Bill Lasher and Jim Vick	
<i>Texas Exes Support &amp; Coordination</i> – Carol Barrett	





The **Foodies Interest Group** dines at locally owned Austin restaurants. Members meet regularly to enjoy good food and interesting conversations. This past year the number of participants has increased to approximately 150 members; approximately 10-20 attend each gathering.

*Chair: Sharon Justice*

The **Health Interest Group** hosts discussions with health and medical experts, on topics frequently related to aging and caregiving. It also provides information about UT programs and benefits available to retirees. Over 90 attendees participated in 2018-2019.

*Chairs: Cecil Martinez and Linda Millstone*

The **Bridge Interest Group** meets monthly to play party bridge at the UT Alumni Center. 24 people participated this year in the lively get-togethers.

*Chairs: Mary Kay Hemenway and Kathey Ferland*

The **Exercise Interest Group** offers workout sessions at Gregory Gym twice per week. The cardio, flexibility and strength conditioning sessions are led by trained instructors from Rec Sports and are tailored to the needs of the participants. Participation has declined over the last several years; there are now eight consistent participants.

*Chairs: Carolyn Wylie and Rosie Maamar*

The **RFSA Magazine** is published twice per year and distributed to all members. It provides information about our organization; campus exhibits and policy changes; opportunities for retirees; and other articles of interest to our members.

The **RFSA Directory** is printed and distributed to members annually. Local business sponsors are highlighted in both the magazine and directory. Some sponsors provide discounted services to members, others have also become donors to the scholarship fund. The RFSA Magazine and directory are primary tools for enhancing connection and communication with our members.

*Editors: Linda Peterson and Tany Norwood*

Dear All,

Welcome to the inaugural Annual Report of the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association. Membership in RFSA is open to all retirees and I invite all to join. At the present time we have 480 members. And, we are one of the best organizations this side of retirement, hands down! Selected highlights of 2018-2019 include the following:

- RFSA is living its mission as shown by the RFSA Scholarship Fund. We are proud to declare that the scholarship endowment has exceeded \$1 million this past year. The RFSA board approved matching funds for contributions and our considerate members, friends and business supporters responded generously.
- Service to UT is important to RFSA members. Thirty-one RFSA members produced hundreds of mementos for guests at the memorial UT Remembers programs. Additionally, members' contributions supported the university's philanthropies including the holiday season's Orange Santa and the 2018 Hearts of Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign.
- Retirement is enriched through RFSA activities and opportunities. For example, enrichment takes the form of both domestic and international travel opportunities, as well as Foodies who gather to socialize and partake of Austin's locally-owned food venues. Other activities detailed in the report offer a complete picture of all the opportunities. A new offering, the Interdisciplinary Speakers Series, will debut in 2019-2020.

On a sad note, RFSA lost one of its strongest advocates with the death of Dr. John J. McKetta. I hope you'll read our tribute to him that is included in this report. We miss his humor and guidance.

We are deeply grateful for the support RFSA receives from the UT Office of the President, Dr. Gregory L. Fenves, and the Texas Exes. The support of President Fenves and his office strengthens the ties our members feel for the university and bolsters our commitment to service. In addition, it strongly affirms the value of past contributions, both big and small, made by RFSA members in building a great university.

I invite you to get to know us. Tell us what you think and consider how RFSA might be a part of your retirement experience. I hope you'll reach out. My email address is [ruthrubio@utexas.edu](mailto:ruthrubio@utexas.edu).

Sincerely,

Ruth J. Rubio  
RFSA President, 2018-2019

The RFSA committees and officers provide the point of connection, continuity and communication for the mutual benefit of the members and the University. The following information describes activities of the RFSA for the period September 2018 to August 2019.



Three annual and highly anticipated events are the **Fall and Spring Luncheons** and the **Holiday Social**. The UT Office of the President funds both luncheons and RFSA is very grateful for this support. The luncheons are held at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center and over 200 RFSA members attend. Our fall program included entertainment by the Pans of Texas, an elite group of members of the UT Steel Pan Band Ensemble. The spring meeting guest speaker was Dr. Don Carleton, Executive Director of the University of Texas at Austin’s Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. The 2018 Holiday Social was held at the J. J. “Jake” Pickle Research Center Commons Area with 114 people in attendance. Members enjoyed food, drink, conversation and entertainment by the University of Texas Trombone Choir, led by Dr. Nathaniel Brickens. Gifts and gift cards were collected for the University’s Orange Santa program.

The **Retired Faculty-Staff Association Scholarship Fund**, established in 1983 and first awarded in 1988, is managed and invested by The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company (UTIMCO). Deserving recipients are selected by UT’s Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. Generous contributions throughout the years have created a fund with a market value of over \$1 million. In October 2017, the RFSA Board started one-to-one matches for scholarship contributions and matched \$25,000 by May 2019. An additional \$30,000 is in reserve to match future gifts. We hope to continue matching as operating funds allow.

In 2018, RFSA was honored with a \$10,000 contribution from Pat Wissler as a memorial to her husband, Dr. Eugene Harley Wissler, a UT faculty member from 1957 until 1995, and RFSA President in 1997-98.

Fourteen UT students received \$2,500 scholarships for 2018-19. Recipients are invited to the fall and spring RFSA luncheons and profiled in our magazine and on our website. Awarding scholarships every year provides ongoing connection, continuity and benefit to UT and is a source of pride for RFSA.

*Scholarship Chairs: Susana Alemán and Eleanor Moore*



The **Travel Interest Group** enjoys local, national and international trips. Destinations for this year included trips to Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg; Mackinac Island and the Great Lakes area; and Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons. Eighty people traveled in 2018-19; most travelers are RFSA members. The sponsored trips provide a contribution to the RFSA scholarship through travel fees.

*Chairs: Marcia & Mike Arn and Karen & John Harrison.*

The **Discussion Interest Group** meets to discuss diverse topics of general interest. Selected topics for this year included “Insights Into the Mid-Term Elections”; “Mitigation of Traffic Congestion”; and Representative Gina Hinojosa spoke about the legislative session. The speakers are often UT faculty/researchers giving community visibility to their projects. Approximately 100 individuals participated in programs this year. *Chairs: Alice Reinartz, Don Davis and Margaret Borden*

The **Finance/Investment Interest Group** holds monthly meetings that feature expert speakers on financial topics of interest, including personal finance, investing, status of the financial markets, taxes, and estate planning. Approximately 100 people attended meetings in 2018-19.

*Chairs: Phil Kelton, Pauline Lopez and Lewis Myers*

Beginning September 2019, the Finance/Investment Interest Group and the Discussion Interest Group will collaborate to present an Interdisciplinary Speakers Series.