

RFSA MAGAZINE

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

RFSA TRAVELS

- ▶ MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES *pg. 21*
- ▶ MAGNIFICENT EUROPE CRUISE *pg. 25*
- ▶ DANUBE DREAMS CRUISE *pg. 28*
- ▶ MEMBERS' TRAVEL STORIES *pg. 32*

2019-2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

pg. 42

FALL/WINTER 2019
SITES.UTEXAS.EDU/RFSA



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Cover photo: Martin L. King statue on East Mall UT Campus. Photo by Robert Childress

Back cover photo: Charles Alan Wright Fields at the Berry M. Whitaker Sports Complex at Whitaker Fields. Photo by Robert Childress

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



► It's such an honor and a pleasure to serve as your RFSU President this year. Membership in RFSU is one of those important opportunities open to us as UT retirees. RFSU provides a point of connection, continuity, and communication for the mutual benefit of our members and The University.

It's amazing to consider the tremendous institutional memory possessed by our members. Our connection to The University is important not only to the institution but for all of us who continue to appreciate UT and all it has to offer. Retirement offers us the time and opportunity to look forward as well as appreciating where we've been. Now we have time to look for new opportunities, new experiences, new ways to serve and to make new friends. Our membership in RFSU can help in all those areas.

When I retired in 2011, I was Director of Scholarships and Donor Relations with the Texas Exes. It was a rewarding experience as I was able to see firsthand how important scholarships are to students and how rewarding giving a scholarship is to donors. RFSU has a long history of giving scholarships and this year we awarded \$2,500 scholarships to nineteen UT students. Our endowment continues to grow thanks to our generous

members and the one-to-one matching provided by RFSU. Thanks to everyone who contributes to scholarships and to other charitable organizations through the University of Texas Hearts of Texas campaign. RFSU has traditionally been one of its most generous groups.

A highlight of this year for me was at the fall luncheon when Daron Roberts, a dear friend who is the Founding Director of UT's Center for Sports Leadership and Innovation, spoke. Having helped recruit Daron to UT when he earned a four-year merit scholarship from the Texas Exes in 1997, I was thrilled for our members to get to know his story. In telling of his amazing pivot from Harvard law grad to coach in the NFL, he made an impression on his audience. His book recounting his journey, *Call an Audible: Let My Pivot from Harvard Law to NFL Coach Inspire Your Transition*, was selling like hotcakes after his talk.

As with any organization, the more we participate, the more we enjoy what RFSU has to offer. If you enjoy hearing interesting speakers, we have several options for you: Discussion, Finance/Investments, Health, and the inaugural year for the Interdisciplinary Speakers Series. It got off to a great start in December when Phil Kelton, retired from the McDonald Observatory, spoke on being a *Footloose Astronomer in Paris*. This was a wonderful beginning for this new interest group. Because I love going out and trying new places to eat, our Foodies Group is great fun, allowing us to try local restaurants and get acquainted with fellow members over a good meal. RFSU's bridge, exercise, group travel and other interest groups provide ongoing opportunities for connection, continuity and communication.

I encourage you to become active in RFSU - attend our luncheons, holiday party and interest groups or plan a trip with our Travel Group. Looking forward to seeing you in the coming year!

ELEANOR MOORE

President, 2019-20

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

► Our sponsors have been solicited because of their excellent reputations in selling the best goods and providing the best service to customers. Many of them are family businesses that have been in our community for a long time. These include the Covert family of auto dealerships, the Strand family of Stan's Heating and Cooling, the Ravel family of Karavel Shoes, the Goff family of Mr. Appliance, and the Fish family of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes. Our other sponsors, 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, the Westminster Retirement Community, and our two newest sponsors Fast Park & Relax and Austin Hearing Services. Check our sponsors' ads for information about their services, coupons and special discounts.

Through their sponsorships, these businesses help us keep our membership dues low and provide support to UT students through the RFSA Scholarship Fund. When you need goods or services, please consider using them – it will be a win-win-win situation for you, for them and for RFSA. And when you use them, please let them know that you belong to RFSA and that we appreciate their support.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JOANNA ROLLINGS

We wanted to learn more about RFSA member JoAnna Rollings, so we just asked!

Where did you grow up?

Down the road in San Antonio, an early aspiration was to be the tooth fairy. Surely that was better than being influenced by TV at my grandparents' house watching roller derby, freestyle wrestling or Lawrence Welk. Our parents were blue collar workers that valued education for my brother, sister and me, so we all completed Masters' or better to make the family proud.

A family friend encouraged me to go to nursing school outside of town. Because my Mother felt that the University of Texas at Galveston was "too wild," I went to Baylor as the only other baccalaureate program in Texas. I joined the Army student nurse program in order to receive tuition assistance – little to know that the world was waiting for me.

We understand that you were a US Army Nurse serving in Vietnam. Tell us about that time.

As a brand-new nurse at age twenty-three, I volunteered to go to Vietnam and was assigned to the 95th Evacuation Hospital in DaNang, close to the DMZ and closest to Cambodia when we bombed it in 1970. Our 200 bed MASH hospital was the 2nd largest in-country and had all the specialties as the fancy brick and mortar hospital in Saigon. It was located on a gorgeous cove on the South China Sea, separated by 10-foot barbed wire barriers and sand and located a few miles north from the famous "China Beach." We watched the 1970 movie, MASH, on the side of our mess hall, and it was the best comic relief and we could all relate.

Our location was strategic, and we were threatened both by shelling and monsoons alike. We lived in denial of the risk from shelling so I was probably most afraid of the two monsoon-typhoons that caused us to evacuate. The wind and rain were so hard, we crawled on the ground to get to our hootch from the hospital.

As medical staff, our mission was clear as the efforts of GIs and Vietnamese were all about working together. We worked 6 days a week, usually 14 to 16-hour shifts, always ready to come back in when we heard helicopters hovering. My take-home lesson about Vietnam was to value collaboration; regardless of our individual roles, we knew we were interdependent.

On our day off, we would visit villages to treat and screen for diseases and anomalies that the surgeons might be able to correct when time allowed. One day on our return trip, our interpreter brought us to a bistro in the middle of a field. The food was classic pho soup and the laugh was that chopsticks were served in a mason jar of water with a roll of toilet paper and the local etiquette was to wipe off your chopsticks and deposit them back in the jar for the next customer! Maybe this was my introduction to becoming an RFSA foodie!

In the 1974 Academy Award winning documentary "Hearts and Minds"



China Beach, 1970



Christmas in Vietnam, 1970



Hospital Chopper Pad, 1970

the director Peter Davis is quoted "the betrayal of the times will never really grasp why we went to Vietnam, what we did there and what doing did to us." I have high resonance with Davis, because there is no reconciliation between what we experienced on the ground and the socio-political understanding of the times. But that year for me was a time of phenomenal personal, professional growth, and sacrifice for all of us, that I would never trade. I was awarded a Bronze Star medal, which is the 3rd

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JoAnna & Friends at work in the 95th Evac Hospital



JoAnna hanging the Texas Flag, sent by a Congressman, in her Vietnam Hospital Ward



JoAnna on a dare at Marine Base in Vietnam nervously holding a snake

highest combat award, and will always believe that nursing is noble work.

Tell us about your career.

I retired after 45 years as a nurse and educator. For 24 years I served in the Army Nurse Corps and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. While on active duty, I completed a BSN, two MSN's and a PhD. Throughout my career, I enjoyed the opportunities I had to teach, including as an Adjunct Clinical Faculty Member at UTEP, teaching and supervising Nursing School students during clinical rotations in ICU; Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland Walter Reed Institute of Nursing Campus; teaching nursing at the University of Washington, the University of Washington-Seattle, and Seattle Community College.

Outside of higher education, I served in administrative roles, including Chief of Nursing Inservice and Education at Letterman Army Medical Center San Francisco; Head Nurse, also at Letterman and Chief, Clinical Nursing Services at 125th Evacuation Hospital in Seoul, Korea. While in Seattle, I served as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Ethicist in the Seattle Children's Regional Medical working with families who lived with chronic sorrow.

Can you share some stories?

In 1985, I was competitively funded by the Army Nurse Corps to get a doctorate from the University of California San Francisco. There I was lucky enough to rent a 1930 art deco row house located 10 blocks from the ocean up from the Cliff House, and 2 blocks over from Golden Gate Park. It was the best exercise of mind and body to bike down to the ocean midday, when all the piles of reading closed in. That was the one place I had a housemate, who turned out to become a best friend. On campus, I was active with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. I was asked to house an area director from the Northwest on sabbatical and was surprised when I misheard "four months stay" as "for a month," but after the first month, we were already fast friends! My biggest amazement in life has been to take in opportunities that came along.

While serving in South Korea, I lived downtown in a contract hotel because there was no housing available for my rank as a single woman officer. I drove around in a Korean sedan. Seoul (population of 11 million at the time) had 4 traffic lanes in each direction with 7 or 8 rows of scooters, buses, cars, taxis and tuk-tuks competing for a lane. I accepted an invite from a medic from my previous assignment to visit his firebase. At the end of a full day, I was hopelessly lost when I drove back into the Seoul metropolis.

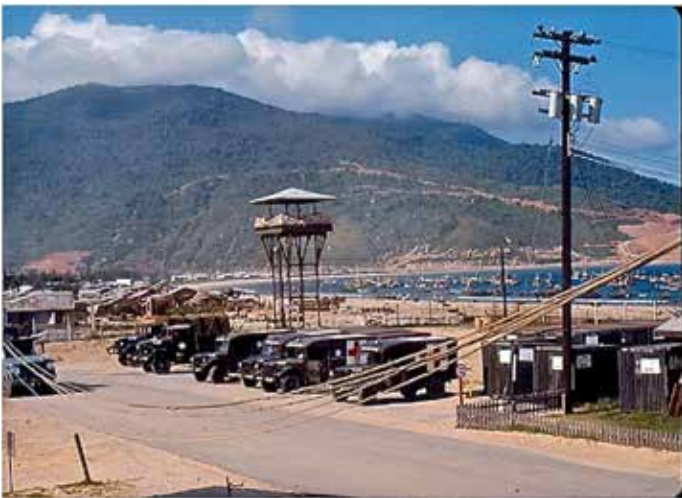
I finally flagged down a craggy-toothed cabbie, pantomimed my predicament, and trusted I was following him back to base. Then I learned how good people can be – because he first declined my attempt to empty my wallet in gratitude, only gesturing with his hand over his heart, shaking his head. My hero. How memorable was that!

While living in Seattle, I completed a renovation of a 1909 arts and craft house near downtown with a view overlooking Lake Washington, the Cascades and Mt. Rainer. My sanity was to buy a 17 foot fully contained

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JoAnna in a recent photo



South China Seaview from Hospital

RV because I loved hiking those green trees and mountains of the NW. So anytime I had more than 3 days off, I searched for a site with the best weather – ocean, mountains, Canada, Idaho or Oregon, and I always found new destinations to explore.

I retired in 2006 and moved back to Texas because my sister lived in Houston, and Austin was the best of all places. I immediately became a UT Austin Life Member. My first project was a total renovation of a 1940 home in Rosedale. This time it was a 5-Star Green Energy undertaking, which required about a year and had the usual number of crazy contractor stories, but is a lovely space.

Since relocating to Austin, I have enjoyed various volunteer opportunities. I volunteered as a promodora at Webb Middle School, working with family defined goals as a coach. As it sounds, promodora is Spanish for promoter or coach. I believe that coaching role came out of my time in Vietnam. I have also loved volunteering as an educational administrator for Be the Bridge, a national faith-based program for racial reconciliation. Also volunteering for Community First in Austin, a transformative residential program, providing affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness.

What's the best thing about being a member of RFSA?

Thank you to Peggy Mueller, who while serving as the RFSA President informed me that the bylaws allowed retirees from UT component institutions to join RFSA and encouraged me to become a member. I eagerly anticipate all the people and events of the Foodies group and the Travel Group, the luncheons, celebrations and UT Remembers. RFSA celebrates the sum as more than the parts, acknowledging our legacies with UT. Awesome.

To read the full text of JoAnna's Spotlight responses, please go to our website: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa



Bronze Star Medal

MYSTERY PHOTO



Old Engineering Building. Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, UT Austin, John Matthias Kuehne Photograph Collection, di_04382.

Our winner is William Woods who correctly identified the mystery photo for Summer 2019 as the Gebauer Building. He added that it was “the first building I worked in when I began employment in 1978.” Good job William!

► For readers who may be interested in more information about this historic piece of the UT Campus’s architectural fabric, the Gebauer Building (GEB) is the oldest academic building at UT Austin. Built in 1904, it has been home at various times to engineering, journalism, geography, and speech departments as well as the Dean of Students’ offices and the Centers for Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies and Mexican-American Studies. From 1932 to 1952 the *Daily Texan* and *Ranger* magazine were published from GEB, then mostly known as the “J-Building.” It was renamed for Dorothy L. Gebauer, former dean of women, in the 1980s. After a much-needed renovation in 1997 it became home to the College of Liberal Arts.

The photograph was taken by physics professor John Matthias Kuehne, who also taught the first photography course at UT in 1908.

RFSA ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 – AUGUST 31, 2019

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 its members and the University.

Retirees of the University of Texas at Austin and UT System and their spouses/partners are eligible for membership. Retirees from other UT components and other retirees who are supporters of RFSA are also eligible for membership with approval of the Membership Committee.

RFSA MEMBERS

2018-19

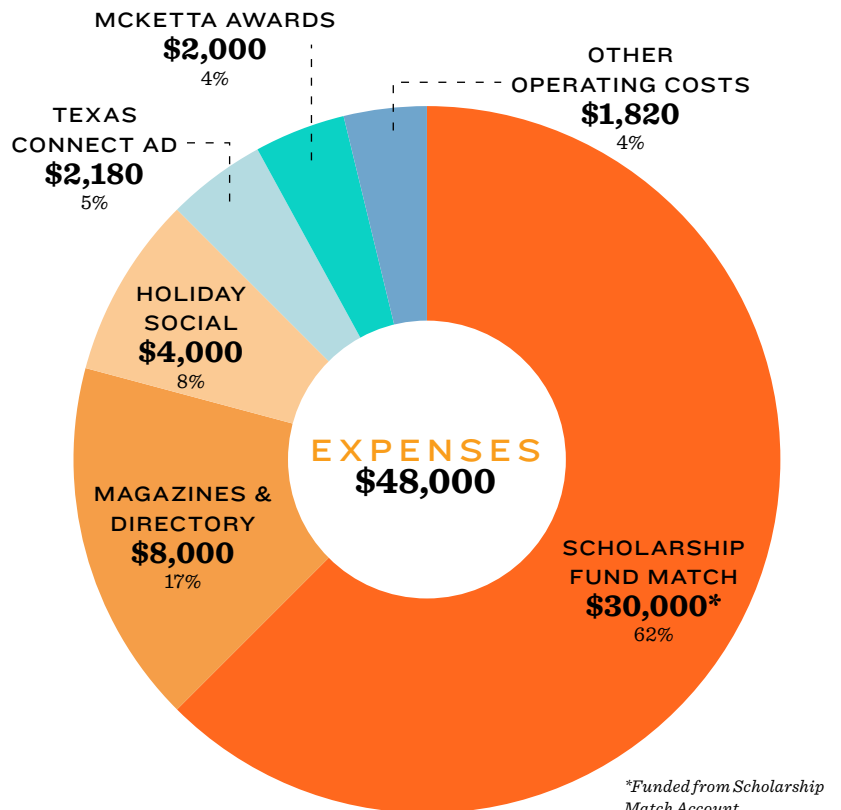
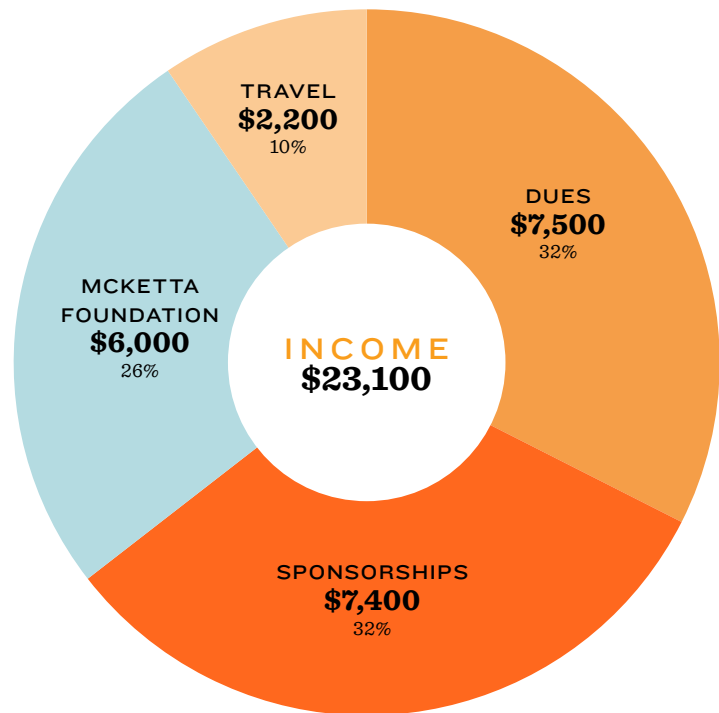


EVENTS, 2018-19:

- Fall and Spring Luncheons, approx. 440 attendees
- Holiday Social, 114 attendees
- Interest Group Meetings, approx. 500 participants

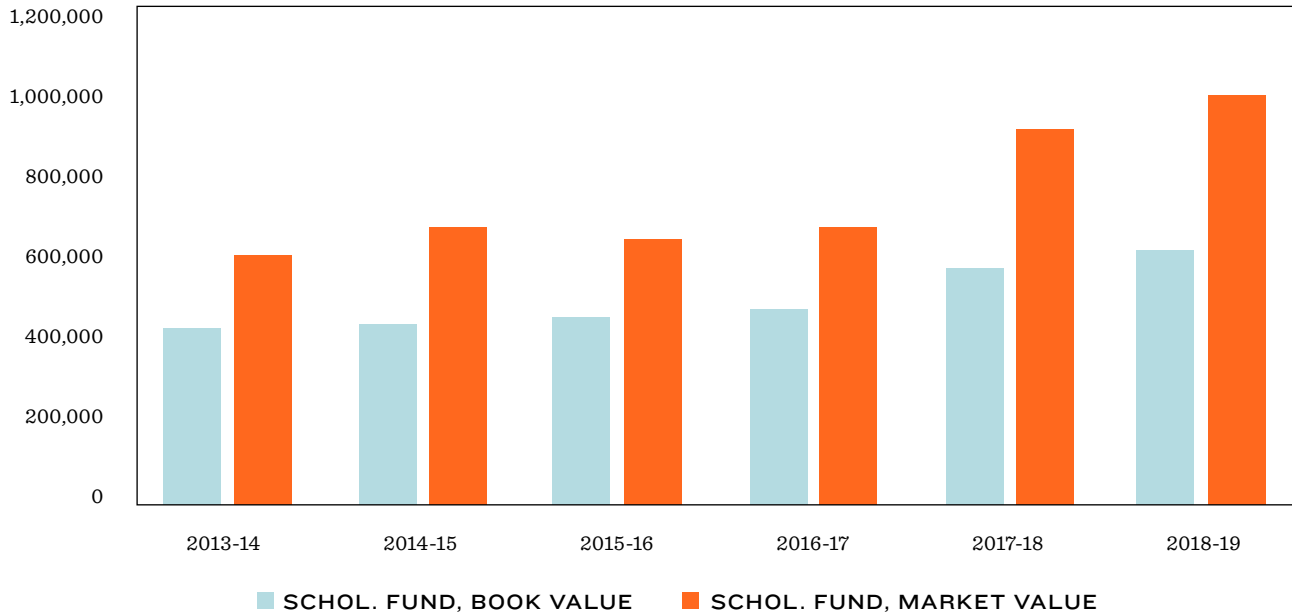
SERVICE PROJECTS, 2018-19:

- RFSA Scholarship Fund
- UT Remembers
- Hearts of Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign
- Orange Santa
- Presentations at "Retiring From UT" Seminars
- Presentations at Faculty Retirement Seminars
- Participation in Health & Lifestyle Expos



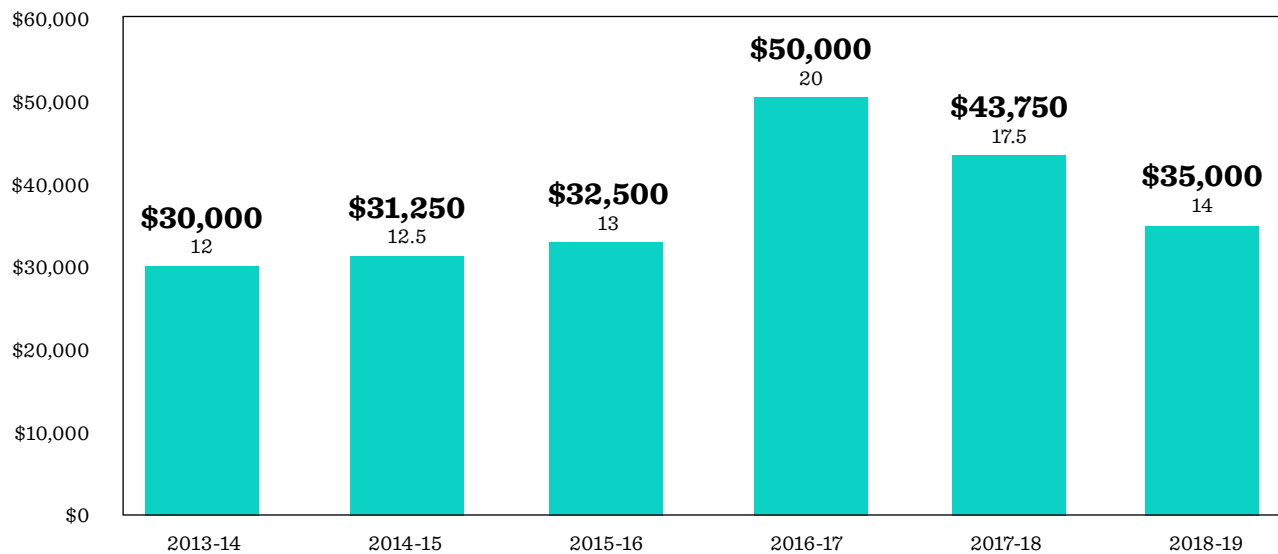
RFSA ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOLARSHIP FUND VALUE



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Total & Number of Recipients
\$2,500 Individual Award



RFSA FALL LUNCHEON

► On the 15th of October, RFSA members gathered for the fall luncheon and meeting in the beautiful Connally Ballroom of Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. Members enjoyed a delicious buffet of seasonal vegetables, pasta and chicken. The wine bar was a popular option as members met and mingled before lunch. The beautiful chocolate mousse with fresh berries capped off this excellent lunch courtesy of the Office of the President.

RFSA President Eleanor Moore welcomed us with a few announcements. Eleanor announced that the UT Austin ID Center was available to make IDs for UT retirees. This is a significant advantage of attending the lunch in addition to reconnecting with friends and colleagues and enjoying a lovely meal in the beautiful ballroom.

The members of the Orange Jackets, Blazers and Silver Spurs were recognized for their help with the luncheon. It is always a pleasure to be greeted and directed by these students at our luncheons.

Finally, Eleanor asked everyone to read the survey flyers that were distributed on each table and to give their input on the membership dues options described on the survey.

Eleanor brought the group together after lunch for the business meeting. First, Eleanor thanked UT Austin President Greg Fenves for hosting the lunch. President Peter Flawn officially created RFSA in 1982, and since that time, the Office of the President has supported our organization in many ways, which is a recognition of how much UT faculty and staff are valued for their past and continued service. This was the perfect time to recognize former President Larry Faulkner and his wife, Mary Ann who were in attendance. They received a warm welcome and well-deserved round of applause.

Next, Eleanor thanked our business sponsors and introduced those in attendance:

- Rox Covert, from the Covert family of auto dealerships
- Greg Hattori from Westminster, a senior living community
- Molly Sherman with St. David's HealthCare
- Mary Hoyt and Gina VanWinkle with FastPark and Relax
- Charlie and Angel Goff with Mr. Appliance of Austin
- Dr. Margaret Hutchison and Ron Herzfeld with Austin Hearing Service
- Laurens Fish with Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes
- Juan Guerra and Charlie Moore with University Federal Credit Union
- Brittani Cobb with Stan's Heating and Cooling

She also thanked the sponsor not able to join us:

- Karavel Shoes

Cecil Martinez, our Sponsorship Chair, was recognized for his great work with our generous sponsors.

Eleanor then announced the Hearts of Texas Campaign. Peggy Mueller and Robin Fradenburgh kindly staffed a table before and after the lunch to accept donations.

She brought our attention to the RFSA Travel program and recognized Mike & Marcia Arn and John & Karen Harrison, our RFSA travel co-chairs, who were available to answer questions about the 2020 trips:

- In February 2020 the group will visit the Panama Canal including the



Diane E. Larson with our luncheon speaker, Daron K. Roberts.



Left to right: Judy Davis, Mike Arn & Judi Mettlen at the Travel Interest Group display.

Rainforest and Playa Bonita

- October 2020 brings a New England Rails & Trails trip

Our featured speaker was Daron K. Roberts, a UT graduate and former Students' Association president and now a UT Lecturer and founding director of UT's Center for Sports Leadership. Daron shared his life story recounted in his book, *Call an Audible: Let My Pivot from Harvard Law to NFL Coach Inspire Your Transition*. Everyone appreciated his candidness and warmth and many questions were asked of Daron after his entertaining and inspiring remarks. Many members were in line after lunch to meet Daron and purchase his book.

Eleanor recognized the 2019-2020 scholarship recipients in attendance. Representing the nineteen awardees were:

- Shayan Ali, Junior, Management Information Systems from Sugar Land
- Omar Aly, Senior, Chemical Engineering from Arlington, Virginia

RFSA FALL LUNCHEON



Members of Texas Blazers help greet luncheon attendees.



From the left: Frances Castillo, Sharon Hinkle, Kathy Pounds.



Judi & Bob Mettlen



McKetta Attendance Award winners, left to right: Joanna Castillo, Cameron Gordon, Susana Aleman, Steven Gavenda, and Mark Bierner.

- Jahnvi Bhakta, Junior, Finance from San Antonio
- Chantelle D'Souza, Senior, Biology from Houston
- Bianca Garcia, Senior, Kinesiology, from Houston
- Alexander Kanora, Senior, Chemical Engineering from Naples, Florida
- Andrei Kleinschmidt, 2nd Year, Master of Business Administration from Mexico City

In other business, Eleanor shared a summary of the Treasurer's Report and reminded everyone that luncheon minutes are posted on our website. It was announced that the Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 5 from 2:30 – 4:30 at the Thompson Conference Center. Email invitations will be sent.

The meeting ended with the drawing of the McKetta Attendance Awards. Dr. John McKetta, former Treasurer Emeritus, provided funding through his Foundation so that five selected attendees at our luncheon meetings receive an Attendance Award of \$200 each. Eleanor drew the five winning tickets and congratulated the lucky recipients. They were:

- Susana Aleman – Law School
- Mark Bierner – School of Biological Sciences
- Joanna Castillo – Petroleum & Geosys Res
- Cameron Gordon – Guest
- Steven Gavenda – International Office

Eleanor closed the meeting and encouraged everyone to stay, visit and make or renew those connections.

HOLIDAY PARTY



Holiday Party

► RFSA members and friends attending the December 5th Holiday Party in the Thompson Conference Center were cheerily greeted at the door by Carol Barrett and Patricia Shampton of The Ex-Students' Association and directed to the dining room on the lower level. As we entered the dining room, the prominent feature was the large, beautifully decorated Christmas tree positioned in front of the plate glass windows facing Robert Dedman Drive. The tree, well over a story tall, along with other festive decorations on each table and the bannister provided a holiday atmosphere for our party. Everyone eagerly visited the buffet and the refreshment tables and commenced to greeting each other and catching up on what we had been doing since our fall lunch and on what our holidays plans would be this year. President Eleanor Moore welcomed us and immediately recognized Carol Barrett, Nancy Payne, and the staff at the Ex-Students' Association for facilitating the event. She also thanked the TCC event staff and caterer for providing such an inviting place and delicious food for the occasion. We continued a tradition begun two years ago to collect donations for Orange Santa at our party. Eleanor expressed gratitude to everyone who contributed with such a generous number of toys and monetary donations. As former UT faculty and staff, we want to share the holiday bounty with our colleagues who could use a little extra support at this time of the year. Eleanor then thanked Martha Hilley for recommending our musical entertainment. She introduced The Tinsel Singers, a professional vocal group, who provided a joyful performance of

familiar Christmas Carols with beautiful harmonies. They invited song requests from the audience and received many in return – enough to fill at least thirty minutes. On that note, Eleanor invited everyone to enjoy the rest of our time together and wished us all a Happy Holidays and New Year.



President-Elect Corky Hilliard, Treasurer Tany Norwood, and President Eleanor Moore at Orange Santa donation table

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Left to right, back row: Ruth Rubio and Donna Bellinghausen, front: Don Davis and Peggy Mueller, in Gregory Annex at July Health Expo

on the main campus in Gregory Gym in July during the annual benefits enrollment. The other is in October and is on the Pickle Research Center campus

- We have samples of our RFSA Magazine and brochures to distribute. If you'd like to volunteer for this activity (and collect lots of "swag"), please contact Peggy Mueller.
- We are invited to participate at the Faculty Retirement Seminar (usually in October). Thank you, Bill Lasher, for presenting.
- Sharon Justice is working on a way to reach staff members in a pre-retirement seminar similar to the faculty seminar.
- RFSA has an ad in each issue of UT Connect, the new magazine for UT Austin faculty and staff, distributed via campus departments.

By participating in campus activities, we also raise RFSA awareness:

- Each year in October, RFSA members participate in the State Employee Charitable Campaign known as Hearts of Texas on the UT Austin campus. We routinely are recognized by SECC as the group with the most retiree contributions.
- After our annual spring RFSA meeting and luncheon, at least 30 members stay to fashion hundreds of mementos for guests at the annual UT Remembers programs. Members make orange loops and pin each to a small memory card and add orange and white tassels to bookmarks. Please join us in this activity. JoAnna Rollings helps by bringing her "scissor sharpening" machine and sharpening the blades on numerous pairs of scissors.

RFSA is always interested in telling "our story" to prospective and new retirees. Invite someone to come with you to an activity, to our luncheons (don't forget to RSVP), an interest group. When you meet colleagues, take the opportunity to spread the word about RFSA. If you have ideas on how we can make RFSA known to UT and UT System staff and faculty, please let me know.

Retirement is what you make it!

For further information, contact Peggy Mueller, pmueller5@utexas.edu.

► RFSA has 480 members now: retirees from UT Austin and UT System, spouses of deceased retirees and some other interested persons. We also have a revolving number of "first-years" - the faculty and staff members who have retired within the last year; they number approximately 290 each year. The first year after retirement is our gift to new retirees - membership is free!

We, of the Membership Committee, and our Board have worked hard to make contacts with working faculty and staff so they will know another organization is ready for them when they retire (move to "inactive" status, as the folks in ITS and Human Resources call us when we retire).

The RFSA Membership Committee includes Ruth Rubio, Sharon Justice, Tany Norwood, Cecil Martinez, Eleanor Moore, Corky Hilliard, Bill Lasher, Donna Bellinghausen, Clemith Houston, Harovel Wheat and Peggy Mueller (chair).

We have raised RFSA's visibility during the last several years in different ways:

- A person from the Membership Committee speaks to the bi-monthly class, Retiring from UT Austin, presented by UT's Human Resources. These classes have 50 people from all departments and the RFSA speaker has about 5-7 minutes to give our "spiel" and welcome future retirees. The classroom in UTA seats 50 and the class is full every session, so future sessions will also be livestreamed. We give each person our RFSA brochure (see website). We ask the participants to take our brochure back to their departments and post it in the staff area.
- We also staff a table at two UT Health/Lifestyle Expos annually. One is

INTEREST GROUPS



From left, Kay Knutsen, George Frock, and Barbara Frock

BRIDGE

► The Bridge Group meets the first Monday of each month of the year, unless that Monday is a holiday, in which case we meet the second Monday of the month. We play at the Alumni Center where parking is provided. We welcome new players, but we need to know in advance so that an even number of tables can be arranged. You need not come with a partner. We play friendly party bridge (not duplicate) and begin at 1:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Mary Kay Hemenway at mkhemenway@utexas.edu or Kathey Ferland at katheyferland4@gmail.com.

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INTEREST GROUPS



Left to right: Don Davis; Mary C. Palmer, Elijah Lopez & Joe St James Lopez of Austin Energy Customer Renewable Solutions; and Alice Reinarz.

DISCUSSION

► One of our best attended fall RFSA Discussion Group programs was a panel of experts from the City of Austin. They addressed topics of energy efficiency and solar power. They were able to answer the many questions about solar panels, revolving around installation and optimal location and return on investment/rebates. In addition, Mary C. Palmer and her colleagues described the City of Austin Energy Efficiency Team's work to help the public reduce home energy waste and expense during the year. They also provide educational outreach to citizen groups and schools, a service about which many residents are unaware.

Members are invited to attend Discussion Group meetings that cover a variety of topics presented for easy understanding by a general audience. Dialogue with the speaker is encouraged and many questions are asked, but there is no pressure for audience participation. These events, on the first Wednesday of some months, are strictly for learning and enjoyment.

Suggestions from members for future presentations are always welcome.

For further information contact Don Davis at dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu or Alice Reinarz at areinarz@tamu.edu

EXERCISE

► The Exercise group meets in Gregory Gym (the north studio on the first floor) from 8:30 to 9:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To participate, you need to join Rec Sports; there is a 50% discount for retirees. Experienced exercise instructors Sandy Erickson and Linda Brown 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, thera-bands and BOSU balls.

We have men and women members of a wide range of fitness levels. Our instructors can adapt the exercises for anyone with special needs. This is a small, friendly group that welcomes new members. If you are a person

who has resisted caring for your physical needs, come and check us out. Do not be intimidated. If you aren't a member of Rec Sports, you can join at their office just inside the entrance to Gregory Gym. Or you can buy a one-time pass and try out the class before deciding whether to join.

For more information, contact Carolyn Wylie, cateswylie@gmail.com, 512/453-2556.

FOODIES

► Our Foodies group met twice in September and once in October. We are looking forward to the new year 2020 when we will get together again to enjoy each other and some fine Austin cuisine.

Eleanor Moore treated us to those divine biscuits slathered with honey butter at Olamaie's. The biscuits are always on the menu, but it does change frequently so what we ate may or may not be available when you are there. Rated as one of Austin's best, we dined on brined pork chops with pecans, apples, and paprika as well as the fish of the day—red snapper. The tomato pie was unusual—a mousse with dollops of brie on the side along with several sliced small grape tomatoes. Those who chose the shrimp and white rice were very pleased but those who chose the red eye gravy with ham found themselves searching for the small tidbits of ham.

Crazy Crepes owned and managed by two hearing impaired individuals offered a variety of crepes. Should you choose to eat dessert first, choices include among others, s'mores, Nutella, brown sugar and cinnamon. But prior to eating those treats, you might choose turkey and avocado, ham and Swiss or another one of their delicious offerings. The environment is conducive to conversations, unlike some restaurants where we have to "work" at being heard.

Try Jack Allen's recently opened Salt Traders located in the Zilker neighborhood on South MoPac. It's a bright interior with lots of seafood options as well as chicken and beef. The free tasty appetizer is a smoked fish dip—yummy. The special of the day was lobster pot pie and those who chose that option were smiling. Most of us ate fish and chips, an ample serving that made us wonder if we could possibly consume any more food, but yes, we could. Key lime pie is the best way to end a seafood meal.

Join our group by contacting Sharon Justice at dsshj@austin.utexas.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY SPEAKER SERIES

► The Interdisciplinary Speaker Series is a new concept for the Interest Groups. It was created this past fall and has been under development. The first meeting was held in December. Look for an update on this new group and a report on the first meeting in the spring/summer edition.

Co-chairs:

Phil Kelton pwkelton@gmail.com

Alice Reinarz areinarz@tamu.edu

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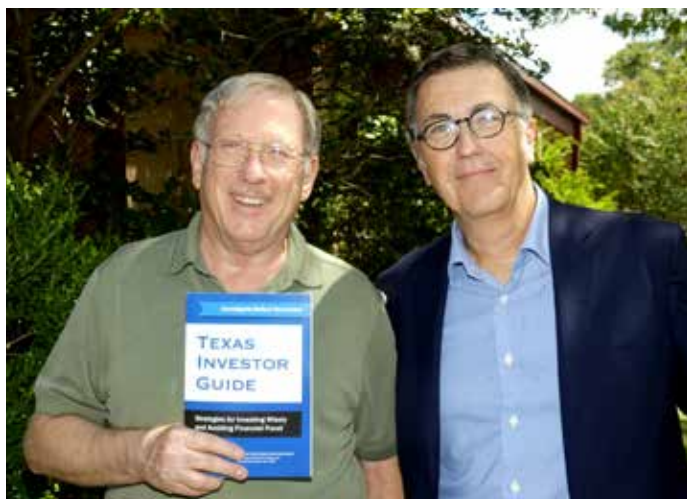
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INTEREST GROUPS



Phil Kelton with Robert Elder of TSSB

regulatory challenges due to technology and demographics, and discussed various example cases of investor fraud and how TSSB investigates and acts to combat this. He also handed out copies of the Texas Investor Guide produced by TSSB, which is an excellent introduction to investing for the general public and which can be downloaded online for anyone who is interested.

Mr. Ford Thompson of Edward Jones Company spoke to the group on November 13 on the topic "Don't Fear the Bear." There was a lot of excellent discussion on how investor actions during the inevitable market declines can have a major effect on long term financial goals and performance. A lot of great information was shared in this talk.

Also note that we have decided to switch our meetings in 2020 to the second Wednesday of the month instead of the second Monday. Conflicts when elections and holidays occur and when the RFSA bridge game had to be moved back by one week make the second Wednesday schedule better for Finance/Investment.

Members should check the RFSA web site for the current schedule of upcoming speakers since meetings are not generally held every single month. Meetings are also announced via email to RFSA members.

For further information, contact Phil Kelton at pwkelton@gmail.com or Pauline Lopez at psanlopez@yahoo.com.

FINANCE/INVESTMENT

► The Finance/Investment group had two meetings in the fall of 2019.

Mr. Robert Elder of the Texas State Securities Board (TSSB) spoke to the group on September 9. He is Director of Communications and Investor Education for TSSB. He gave an overview of how TSSB is adapting to

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INTEREST GROUPS



Linda Millstone, Tyler Gerds with NFINITE PURSUITS, Cecil Martinez

HEALTH

► We had three meetings in the Fall on the 3rd Monday in the months of September, October, and November. The meetings were held at the Old Quarry Library at 1:30PM.

In September our speaker was Mr. Tyler Gerds with NFINITE PURSUITS, a company created to help people with their wellness programs. His talk centered on the solutions that Americans need to work on to maintain good health because 25% of us die from heart disease annually. Exercise and nutrition are the main solutions to our wellness. Mr. Gerds talk focused on exercise. In November we will have a speaker on nutrition.

In October our speakers were Ms. Anna Finger and Ms. Lindsey Wineholt with The Comprehensive Memory Center at UT Health Austin. The talk centered on Brain Health and Dementia Care because Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S., and it is the cause of death for which there is no cure for it. They also talked on brain health, early warning signs, what to do if one is concerned, diagnosis and family support. This meeting had 43 attendees, the largest attendance in at least 4 or 5 years. We usually have 20 to 25 attendees.

Brandon Hill, with Crave-It Nutrition, was our speaker about nutrition wellness in November. This was the second part of our September talk which covered exercise. My co-chair, Linda Millstone, and I hope that our programs are being helpful to you as we all try to enjoy our lives because our lives do have an expiration date.

For further information contact Cecil Martinez
cecil.martinez@sbcglobal.net or Linda Millstone lmwiseone@gmail.com

TRAVEL

► The RFSA Travel Group organizes and facilitates tours for RFSA members to be able to travel in preplanned tours of US and international venues. The camaraderie, learning and discovering new places are all bonuses. This past session the group visited the **Panama Canal Lock** Great Lakes area, including Mackinac Island, and enjoyed the Magnificent Europe River Cruise and the Danube Dreams River Cruise. They are offering two tours for 2020.



Panama Canal, Rainforests and Playa Bonita February 11 - 18, 2020 and February 12 - 19, 2020

Twenty-six RFSA members and friends are going on one of two eight-day trips to Panama, to learn about and go through the Miraflores Locks, see Panama City, take a boat ride in Gatun Lake, visit an Embera tribal village, butterfly garden, orchid nursery, sloth exhibit, a beach resort and more. Fun times ahead!

New England Rails and Trails, October 10-17, 2020

We begin with a tour of Boston, followed by two rail journeys in the picturesque Mt. Washington Valley in the North Conway area of New Hampshire; two nights in Burlington, Vermont to include Quechee



North Conway, NH

Gorge, Vermont's Little Grand Canyon, and a visit to Woodstock, Vermont; and, two nights in Portland, Maine, concluding with a scenic ride through the Lake Champlain Valley, including a visit to a cider mill and a visit to the famous Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory. Of course, a scoop of that famous ice cream will be provided. Complete information, including itinerary, will be distributed in early 2020 via an email from Carol Barrett. Cost is \$3,525, double occupancy, including airfare; single supplement is an additional \$1,025. Contact Karen and John Harrison for additional information. 512-258-4506.

Travel Co-Chairs are:

Mike & Marcia Arn at texmarn@att.net or mjarn50@hotmail.com
John & Karen Harrison at kjharrison17@gmail.com

RFSA VISITS MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES



RFSA travelers, photo provided by Robin Fradenburgh

MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES TOUR

BY ROBIN FRADENBURGH

► Nineteen members of RFSA joined another group of nineteen travelers from across the U.S., including one couple from New Zealand, for an eight-day trip beginning July 7, from Detroit north through Michigan, to Frankenmuth, Mackinac Island, round the peninsula, to Petoskey, Grand Rapids and, finally, Chicago, with many stops along the way!

This tour had something for everyone. The focus was on the Great Lakes, but the first stop was the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI. For anyone interested in automotive history or any type of invention, this was the place for them. It even included such artifacts as Lincoln's rocker from his booth in Ford's Theater; JFK's presidential limousine; an original bed used by George Washington; and Rosa Park's bus. The round Dymaxion House built in 1946 was expected to be the house of the future, but only two were sold.

Totally different than one would expect on a trip like this was a night in Frankenmuth, a German town founded in 1846 by Franconian settlers. Today, they have revamped their look to that of a Bavarian town with the chalet style buildings with flower boxes and baskets along all the streets and buildings. Two surprises awaited the group that day: a stop



Bronner's Christmas Store, Frankenmuth, MI, photo by Marvin Hackert

at Bronner's, the largest Christmas store in the world, and a fabulous German family style dinner at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant. Bronner's is the size of 1.7 football fields and requires a map to direct customers to their areas of interest in the store. Once we found out they shipped, it was hard to control the shopping. The Bavarian Inn Restaurant, owned by the same people that owned the Bavarian Lodge where we stayed, sat on the main street of town. The group was treated to a wine tasting of German wines then a meal consisting of multiple prepared salads, schnitzel, smoked pork chops, sauerbraten, sausage, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, potato puffers, sauerkraut, mixed vegetables, stuffing and gravy.

RFSA VISITS MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES



Arch Rock, Mackinac Island, MI, photo by Marvin Hackert

Folks had been warned to eat a light lunch, but I don't think anyone expected a meal like that!

From Frankenmuth, the group traveled to Mackinaw City to catch the ferry to Mackinac Island. It's hard to describe the magic and allure of Mackinac Island...a real step back in time. No automobiles are allowed on the island. All public and most private transportation is done by horses and/or bicycles. A firetruck and an ambulance are hidden away for emergencies; the average tourist wouldn't see either.

The ferry trip across Lake Huron was only 16 minutes, but so scenic as we took in the bridge to the upper peninsula before the island came closer in sight. The historic Grand Hotel stood majestic on the hill. As we came into harbor, the town came alive, you could see the horse drawn taxis making their way through town. We all debarked and got in queues for our taxis that took us and our luggage to the Island House, the 2nd oldest hotel on the island, built in 1852.

Mackinac Island was the highlight of the trip for many of us. Since we were there two nights, we were able to spend a whole day enjoying the island. Lunch was planned at the Grand Hotel which was a horse drawn taxi ride away. Lunch was held in the Main Dining Room which was beautifully appointed with matching china. The massive buffet was set up in the center of the room and went from one end to the other. It had tables of salads, cheeses, cold meats, appetizers, oysters, shrimp, hot food of every type including a carving board. The desserts were amazing and equally as impressive. To say it was fabulous is an understatement. We were given a little time to explore the Grand prior to our afternoon carriage ride around the island. Many went up to the Cupola Bar on the 4th floor which provided views of the island, the harbor and beyond. We were fortunate enough to visit the Grand on her 132nd birthday.

The afternoon carriage ride was fun as we learned a lot about the history of the island and the people that live there. Of interest, there are only 500 year-round residents. During the summer there are 10,000-15,000 tourists a day. There are 600 horses to shuttle the tourists around; five veterinarians; three farriers; and one people doctor. The driver commented "you can tell who's important on Mackinac."

The Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI, photo by Robin Fradenburgh



RFSA VISITS MACKINAC ISLAND AND THE GREAT LAKES



Grand Hotel Taxi, Mackinac Island, MI, photo by Marvin Hackert

After we left Mackinac Island, we headed to Petoskey and Charlevoix, both charming summer resorts for many wealthy Americans. Was fun to see how the other half lived in their Victorian, summer “cottages.” Two outings, which were unexpected and part of touring this area, were a trip to Legs Inn and Friske Orchard. Both were opportunities to eat more between breakfast and lunch. Legs Inn is a Polish restaurant in Cross Village on Lake Michigan, which was built in the 1930s. Half the fun was getting to see all the unique wood carvings by Stanley Smolak made of tree roots, limbs and driftwood. He called the carvings, “nature’s oddities.” Being a Polish immigrant, Smolak also served Polish specialties at his Inn. The group was invited to a tasting of a variety of these: pierogies, kielbasa, cheese, rye bread, red beet relish (cwikla) and, berry szarlotka, for dessert. On another day, the group traveled to Friske Orchard, located outside Charlevoix. We were invited to take a tractor pulled wagon ride through the orchard, eat cherry pie, and buy all the various cherry and apple goods sold in the store. Unbeknownst to most of us, this area of Michigan is the largest cherry producing area in the U.S.

From Petoskey, we traveled to Traverse City where we left Lake Michigan to stay in Grand Rapids. The highlight of this stop was the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum. Although Gerry Ford only served a short term in



Navy Pier, Chicago, IL, photo by Marvin Hackert

office, it was amazing what he was able to accomplish during his tenure.

Leaving Grand Rapids and the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, we headed to Chicago, the windy city. After lunch at the Navy Pier, a tour of the inner loop, and Millennium Park, we settled in to the historic Palmer Hotel for a farewell dinner. As wine was being served, the group was provided with a brief overview of the hotel’s history. The Palmer is noted as the first fireproof building; the first hotel to use a “vertical steam railroad,” which led to Otis’ invention of the elevator; the first utilization of Edison’s light bulb; the first installation of Bell’s invention of the telephone; and the creator of the “brownie.” It is worth mentioning that each of our hotels along the way were iconic hotels given their age and significance in history.

A memorable time was had by all. As we’ve heard from many travelers, these trips are such a great opportunity to get to know and appreciate our colleagues in RFSA. As Winona Schroeder said, “To everyone - thanks for the great fellowship. It was a wonderful trip. Until next time!” Please consider traveling with us! You’ll be glad you did!

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CHEVROLET

MAGNIFICENT EUROPE RIVER CRUISE



Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna

BY MARCIA ARN, PHOTOS BY MARCIA AND MIKE ARN

► Karen Hitzfeld and Mike and Marcia Arn arrived in Budapest, Hungary, September 19th, joining 142 other passengers on the Avalon Illumination ship. The staff were wonderful the whole cruise.

After spending time in Budapest and Bratislava, we traveled to Vienna, Austria.

While driving down Vienna's Ring Street, we passed the Secession Museum with a large dome made of 2,000 gold laurel leaves, the State Opera House, a church and so much more. Vienna has four opera houses, 64 theaters and more than 100 museums. Walking in town, we saw a flight of wide outdoor steps at the Albertina Museum, with the verticals painted. Looking at it from the bottom, you could see the entire realistic picture of green plants. In an interior walkway by the sidewalk, we beheld a side of the Spanish Riding School Stables, where the Lipizzaner horses are trained! Hugely impressive was the Imperial Hofburg Palace, the winter home of the Habsburg royal family, now the official residence and office of the President of Austria. Later, we drove through a section where most of the famous musicians had lived, to get to the Schönbrunn Palace. Johann Strauss' father (also Johann) invented the Vienna waltz that was much faster than the English waltz, and Strauss II wrote many Viennese waltzes. High society thought the new waltz inappropriate since the man was to put his arm around the woman's waist and dance quickly. The young people loved it and girls wrote Strauss II fan letters asking for a lock of his curly black hair. He bought a black poodle, and sent them

clippings of its hair.

The 1,444 room Schönbrunn Palace was the main residence of the Habsburg family from spring to fall. It had a music hall where Mozart used to perform. In a huge reception room, where the family entertained, many candles in the chandeliers were lit, and when they burned out, the event was over. Each room was lavish and beautiful. Large pretty porcelain wood burning stoves in each room provided heat. Every member of the Imperial family had 50 servants. Empress Maria Theresa, and her husband, Franz Stephan had 16 children, so that was 900 servants! Daughter Maria Antonia (Marie Antoinette) was married to Louis XVI.

In Dürnstein, Austria, we chose to hike to the Dürnstein Castle ruins. We walked along a path from the ship to the town, passing large vineyards and hiked up 1,100 stone steps. The view was worth it. King Richard "the Lionheart" of England was captured by the Austrian Duke and imprisoned here in 1192. The narrow cobblestone streets of Dürnstein had shops and homes with flowers in window boxes.



Dirndl (dress) & Lederhosen (leather shorts) in Salzburg

At the Melk Abbey, we used the Emperor's entrance and halfway down the 1,000-foot hallway, we went into a very large dining

room. Near the center of the floor was a decorative grate, where important guests would be seated to be near the warm air that it provided. Our passionate guide explained before we went in the Baroque style chapel, that it was what the people perceived as bringing heaven down to earth. The amount of gold decoration was overwhelming, so it seems they were successful.

Next, we visited Salzburg, a beautiful city near the German border. We



Budapest Parliament Building at night

MAGNIFICENT EUROPE RIVER CRUISE

learned that it is the second largest source of salt (salz) in the world. The movie, *The Sound of Music*, about the Von Trapp family was filmed there. As we drove there, our guide told us many people grow cabbage and make sauerkraut and more because it is their only source of vitamin C. We toured the stunning gardens at Mirabell Palace, saw the location where Mozart was born and viewed the green topped spires of St. Peter's Abbey Church and the Hohensalzburg Fortress on top of the bluff.

In Regensburg, Germany, we saw a wall containing stones from a corner of a Roman fortress. These stones, uncovered in 1885 in a tower and archway gate from *Castra Regina*, a Roman legion camp, dated from 179 AD. We entered an old salt warehouse with huge oak beams and could see the Danube and the Old Stone Bridge built in 1135-46.

One of the excursions was a Nuremberg city tour. A fellow passenger said they saw the non-descript government building where the Nuremberg trials were held. Her impression of the city was that it was dark and

dreary. Another passenger mentioned seeing the Nuremberg Nazi Rally Grounds.

In Roth, we went to the Historical Forge Museum where a man demonstrated forging iron. The town had been an asylum where refugees and others could go to solve their problems. A son of a wire-puller was granted refuge, and established an economic sector making Lyonese wire products which are still produced today. We toured the Ratibor Castle, built as a hunting lodge in the 16th century with a beautiful large state room with a parquet floor and many ceiling frescos.

We enjoyed visiting Bamberg, known as the beer capital of Germany, smoke beer being their specialty and Würzburg, location of the opulent baroque Residenz (Prince Bishop's Palace). Other visits included Rothenburg, a medieval walled town, with decorative half-timbered buildings, and Miltenberg, on the Main River, with its brass markers in the sidewalks memorializing local Jewish people killed by the



Hofburg Palace, Vienna



Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet in Rudesheim, Germany



Mirabell Palace gardens, St. Peter's spires and Hohensalzburg Fortress in center background in Salzburg



Slovak National Theater in Bratislava 9/21

MAGNIFICENT EUROPE RIVER CRUISE

Nazis. Each had a name, birth year, deportation year and disposition (murdered). Karen Hitzfeld said, “the guide told us that the town was totally dependent on the River Cruise traffic to keep it going. Miltenberg is a charming town. I hope it is able to survive.”

In Rudesheim, we visited Siegfried’s Mechanical Music Cabinet Museum. Guided through rooms that had mostly large mechanical musical instruments, we heard some of them played. An impressive mechanical piano with two cylindrical compartments on top had six violins in each, standing with neck down in a circle. A metal band surrounded them and would move to play against the violins for the right notes of a familiar waltz.

A Rhine River cruise allowed us to view many castles along the way to Engers on the banks of the Rhine. That night we were treated to a private classical concert at the beautiful Schloss Engers.

We did a walking tour of Cologne, or of Jewish Cologne. The Romans

were first in Cologne on the Rhine. They had a sewer system, aqueducts, roads, heated floors and more. Later, bearded men camped on the other side of the river and had nothing. The Romans started calling them Barbars, which meant beard. When the basement was dug for a Römisch – Germanisches Museum that opened in 1974, a Roman mosaic tile floor was unearthed. It was left as it was and is on display in the basement.

We concluded with a visit to Amsterdam. It is difficult to get around in the city by car or bus, so most people use bicycles. We enjoyed a canal cruise past tall 17th century buildings with cantilevered beams at the top with pulleys, called hoisting beams. These are to lift furniture that would not fit up the narrow staircases.

We were happy to get back on the ship and have our last tasty warm dinner.

To read the full text of Marcia’s article and enjoy more photos, please go to our website: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa



Full Austrian male lederhosen dress in Salzburg



Dürnstein, Austria with castle ruins on hill



Roman mosaic floor in Roman-German Museum in Cologne



Half-timbered buildings in Rothenburg, Germany

DANUBE DREAMS RIVER CRUISE

BY JOYCE L. HARRIS, PHOTOS BY JOYCE L. HARRIS

► Two RFSA members began our trip in Budapest, Hungary on October 2, 2019, and joined over 100 other people on the Danube Dreams River Cruise a day later.

Susan Clagett and I flew into Budapest, Hungary, which, by the way, looks very much like Kansas from 10,000 feet up. Ah, but that's where the similarity ends. Budapest, two cities, Buda and Pest, united in 1875 and linked by nine bridges spanning the storied Danube River, is breathtaking in its grandeur and beauty. We set out in the rain to explore the area around our hotel. The illuminated Chain Bridge, one of Budapest's iconic landmarks, complemented the brilliantly floodlit Parliament Building. Together, as their lights reflected in the dark water of the Danube, they made a postcard-perfect panorama.

The next day, we found a little restaurant where we ordered what we thought would be a light meal of salad, roasted vegetables, and some meat and cheese. To our surprise and amusement, we were served three large platters of food, enough for six or more very hungry people. Every bite was delicious, but way more than two people could ever eat. We did our best to eat as much as we could, and chalked it up as the first of many delightful surprises in store for us.

Our next stop was a souvenir shop. I had newly minted Hungarian Forint burning a hole in my pocket. The souvenir of choice was Hungarian paprika—paprika for everyone, probably a lifetime supply! After some feverish shopping and strolling a few blocks, it was time for tea and a snack. Again, by chance, we found ourselves in the renowned Gerbeaud Confectionary, an elegant, old-world restaurant overlooking a busy pedestrian plaza. The room was aglow with crystal chandeliers, graced with an exquisitely carved wooden fireplace, and draped in lavishly brocaded fabric, hung from a frescoed ceiling to the floor. Here, we enjoyed tea and the famous Hungarian Dobos torte, a seven-layer cake topped with ganache, all before embarking, later in the afternoon, on Avalon Waterways' Passion for the start of a leisurely westbound cruise on the Danube River.

Our itinerary included ports of call at three European capitals, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna, capitals of Hungary, Slovakia and Austria, respectively. In Bratislava, we walked Old Town's cobble stone streets, flanked on either side by pastel-colored buildings. The city's centerpiece is St. Martin's Cathedral, the coronation church of many Hungarian royalties, including the only woman, Empress Maria Theresa, during the Habsburg Dynasty.

After an overnight cruise, we docked in Vienna, the beautiful Austrian capital that offers so much more than can be taken in during a single visit, or expressed in a few words. A standout, however, was the Royal Waltz Concert, performed in an elegant concert hall with a painted ceiling reminiscent of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. There, the musicians regaled us with the familiar music of Mozart and Strauss, including of course, a melodious rendition of the Viennese Waltz.

After an overnight cruise, we docked at Dürnstein, in the picturesque



Gerbeaud Confectionary, Budapest, Hungary

Wachau Valley. There, I visited an establishment where saffron is harvested and processed. The owner is a botanist who bought an old railway depot, nestled between terraced vineyards, and overlooked by the ruins of Dürnstein Castle where Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned. The old depot serves as a classroom, retail shop, and processing center for the saffron threads and saffron-infused cakes, chocolate, and finishing salt we sampled, during an informative lecture on the cultivation of crocus flowers from which the precious saffron threads are harvested. Interestingly, the owner keeps his excess inventory in a bank vault for safekeeping.

Our next port of call included a guided tour of the 11th century Melk Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking Melk, Austria in the Wachau Valley. This imposing, Baroque-style Benedictine Abbey houses a massive library containing medieval manuscripts, while currently operating as a co-ed school for some 900 students. The view from high above the valley floor is spectacularly photogenic, begging for a wide-angle lens.

Linz, Austria's third largest city, was founded by the Romans during the 1st Century, and was the home of Adolf Hitler during his childhood and youth. He lived there until he moved to Vienna with the unfulfilled hope of becoming a famous painter. Mozart wrote his Symphony No. 36, known as the Linz Symphony, for a concert performed there. Linz is also the home of the famous Linzer torte, a delicious pastry. A guided walking tour through the oldest part of the city led to its expansive town square and landmark trinity column.

Passau, Germany, at the confluence of the Danube, Inns, and Ilz Rivers, was our last port of call before cruising overnight to Deggendorf for disembarkation. The Old City of Passau, which was destroyed several times by fire, has been rebuilt in its original Baroque style. The impressive St. Stephen's Cathedral, which was the end-point of our walking tour, boasts the largest pipe organ in Europe, with some 17,388 pipes and 231 stops. Unfortunately, the grand pipes were silent during our brief time in

DANUBE DREAMS RIVER CRUISE



Ornate Manhole Cover, Budapest, Hungary



The Chain Bridge, one of Budapest's iconic landmarks



St. Stephen's Cathedral, Pipe Organ, Passau, Germany

DANUBE DREAMS RIVER CRUISE

that sacred space, so their resonance could only be imagined in what is said to be the largest interior of any Baroque church north of the Alps.

Our Danube Dreams cruise ended much too soon, leaving us with many warm impressions of the people we met, the sights that we saw, and the delectable foods that we ate. All in all, it was everything that one wants a trip to be. Our staterooms and amenities, the tastefully prepared and beautifully plated meals, and the welcoming graciousness of the Avalon Passion's crew showcased the pleasures of river cruising, leaving us with many sweet memories of the River Danube.



Melk Abbey, Melk, Austria



St. Stephen's Cathedral, Passau, Germany

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**. Please also see the RFSA website for additional digital content under the “Etc.” tab.

And if you are a Facebook user, you can access our Facebook page and join us at **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.



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LBJ Fountain. Photo by Sandy Carson



MEMBERS' SUMMER TRAVEL STORIES



View of the Royal Palace in Buda, taken from the Pest side of the Danube River

historical interest – Budapest is a beautiful international city that should be on every bucket list.

In western Hungary, we stayed at Lake Balaton, often referred to as Budapest-on-Sea. It is an amazing huge turquoise lake, the largest in central Europe. The lake itself is stunning, and some of the resort areas around the lake rival the resort areas around the lakes in northern Italy. We saw very few Americans, but lots of Russian tourists. When Americans “discover” this beautiful area, I am sure that will change. Hungary is also famous for their many natural hot springs, and we spent several days in far western Hungary at one of the springs-focused resorts.

TRIP TO HUNGARY

BY TANY NORWOOD

► For two weeks in June, Tany and Bob traveled all over Hungary. It was, admittedly, not on our travel radar, although we had loved Budapest when we had visited before. This trip came about because some friends who had grown up in Hungary (including the time while it was part of the Soviet Union) invited us to go with them on their annual trip home. It was absolutely the best way to travel, with natives who could speak the language and knew all the places to go that weren't overrun with tourists. We literally went from one side of the country to the other and top to bottom.



Inside a winery carved into a massive rock hill

For about half our trip, our home base was the Buda side of Budapest. This is the hilly side, and from our rented home we had a terrific view across the Danube into Pest. We ate in amazing restaurants, took the subways, and shopped in the local markets. Gorgeous historical buildings are interspersed with “Russian blocks”, the functional but ugly apartments built during the communist era. Those contrasts simply add

Bükk National Park was another beautiful surprise. Founded in 1977, located in northern Hungary, it is renowned for its lush natural beauty. A zig-zag, almost-two-lane road took us through several ear-popping changes in elevation to get through the park. At the edge of the park is the beautiful Hotel Palota, where we spent a luxurious two days. Built as Castle Hotel Lillafüred, it was completed in 1930. The hotel was converted into a hospital for healing wounded Russian soldiers during WWII, then went through several iterations before it was restored in 1993 to a luxury hotel.

We had amazing multi-course meals, most of them in the homes of family and friends, and even drove across the border to Slovakia to have a yummy lunch one day. Favorite ingredients included pastas, potatoes and pork belly; and everything was seasoned with Hungary's favorite spice, paprika, which ranges from sweet to burn-your-tongue hot. Locals often stop in the market every day to purchase items for that evening and the next day; and the fresh fruits and vegetables and countless pickled veggies were delicious. And a final food note – Hungary makes the best pastry desserts in the world. We are pastry lovers, and would quickly agree to travel back just to eat dessert.

We also discovered that Hungary has many vineyards and makes delicious wine. Bull's Blood of Eger is Hungary's most celebrated wine, deep red, robust and fruity. Tany was surprised and delighted to have the best wine she ever tasted, grown and bottled in Hungary – a bottle of Tokaji Fordítás, also worth traveling back for. Every country takes pride in their own regional liquor, and Hungary's is called pálinka. It's usually homemade, and every family and region have their own specialty. It is similar to a fruit brandy, with high alcohol content. We tried pálinka made from cherry, apricot, apple and every other fruit imaginable, plus some

MEMBERS' SUMMER TRAVEL STORIES

made with herbs. It is customary for anyone hosting guests in their home to bring out multiple bottles of pálinka with tiny glasses, and everyone has a glass of each one.

The US and Hungarian political scenes have many current parallels. Private gatherings in people's homes often ended with discussions and lots of questions about US policies and politics. Older Hungarians remember communism as having many good values – everyone received a free education, had a home, and received food and medical care. Hungary was at the far edge of the Soviet bloc, so our host explained that many of the people sort of adopted a hybrid version of communism tinged with entrepreneurship.

Hungarian is one of the most difficult languages imaginable. We tried to be good visitors and learn at least a few phrases, but would have to consider ourselves total failures. Before our next visit (and we will be back), we will start practicing a little sooner!



Hungarian pastries

NEAL & PEGGY RHEA'S SUMMER TRIP

BY PEGGY RHEA

► My husband Neal and I happily missed most of the triple digit days in Austin this summer with three separate vacations from July through early October. In July, we traveled to southern California, including Laguna Beach, where we attended the fascinating Pageant of the Masters

show at the Festival of the Arts. Famous works of art are re-created using living people dressed and posed as portrayed in the art pieces, all in an outdoor theatre under the stars. It's hard to describe—you have to see it to believe it! Photography is not allowed, so I have no pictures to share.

In August, following a Rocky Mountain National Park family reunion, we visited Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. Those two parks were a first for me. We enjoyed the gorgeous natural scenery throughout them both.

Our third trip was a three-week tour of Italy, our first European vacation! We visited the classic sites of Florence and Rome before heading south to Sorrento. From there, we visited Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Paestum archeological sites; the Isle of Capri; and several Amalfi Coast towns and museums. The Amalfi Coast drive is beautiful and winding, and we were happy to experience it from the comfort of a passenger's seat, not a driver's seat!



Left: Neal & Peggy Rhea at Jenny Lake in Teton National Park

Right: Neal & Peggy Rhea at Temple of Athena at Paestum, Italy



MEMBERS' SUMMER TRAVEL STORIES



Wilson with Sue, the T-Rex, at the Field Museum

CHICAGO GRANDPARENT TRIP

BY ELEANOR MOORE

► Michael and I enjoyed a spur-of-the-moment trip during the summer of 2019. Our younger grandson, Wilson, turned 10 in July which prompted the idea of a grandparent trip with him. We had taken his older brother, Dillon, for two weeks in the Northwest when he turned 10 back in 2016.

However, Wilson is not as excited about being away from home (and his two dogs), so we resigned ourselves to no grandparent trip this year. But, after Wilson began thinking about places he'd like to visit in this country, he decided Chicago would be fun for four or five days – as long as his mother went, too.

Hoping he would not change his mind, we quickly made plans to travel in July, happy to see the average July temps would be in the 80's.

Unfortunately, average temperatures records are no longer a reliable travel guide. We arrived in Chicago during a terrible heat wave with mid-90-degree weather that felt very much like Austin.

Starting the first day at a steamy hot Soldier Field, we had a terrific tour of this historic stadium and arranged for a Happy Birthday Wilson message on the scoreboard during our tour. Not to be deterred by heat, we planned several activities that would involve air conditioning, such as the fabulous Field Museum with its famous T-Rex "Sue." Our hotel was within easy walking distance of good restaurants and Lake Michigan. Since it felt like the tropics, we spent one afternoon at the beach very close to our hotel. The blue water and white sands littered with beach umbrellas brought Miami to mind, not Chicago. Wilson was the only one of us brave enough to swim in the very cold water of this beautiful Great Lake. A tour boat on the Chicago River and lunch at the Navy Pier filled another day with adventures. Other memories of the Grant Park Zoo, the Bean, visiting with old friends in Oak Park, a blazing hot Cubs game and chowing down on Chicago-style pizza will live in our memories - and hopefully, Wilson's – forever.



Eleanor & Michael Moore with Wilson in Thompson Hotel in Chicago

SUMMER VACATION IN BOSTON

BY RUTH RUBIO

► My husband, Larry Sclerandi, and I plan a big vacation every summer and this year our time was spent in Boston, Massachusetts. The city was founded in 1630 so there's lots of history in any direction you turn. We learned that it's highly likely that the Battle of Bunker Hill was actually fought on Breed Hill. Breed Hill was a bit higher and in a better strategic position to fight the British red coats. In one of the first conflicts, the colonists/defenders constructed an earthen fortress overnight to reinforce their position. To everyone's pride and surprise, the colonists and fortress held for a few assaults before falling. Another highlight of the trip was learning about Fredrick Law Olmsted, the father of landscape architecture. Olmsted, born in 1822, was a naturalist and conservationist. As a former social worker, what impressed me most was that Olmsted considered parks and

Monument to the Battle of Bunker Hill was constructed between 1825 and 1843 and commemorates the first major battle between British and Patriot forces in the American Revolutionary War fought on June 17, 1775.



MEMBERS' SUMMER TRAVEL STORIES

natural areas as a social intervention. Public parks were designed, in part, to allow immigrants who lived in crowded city tenements the opportunity to breathe fresh air and enjoy open natural spaces. In a public park, the socio-economic classes had the opportunity to see and interact with each other, thus contributing to the strengthening of our evolving democracy.

Massachusetts Statehouse is the seat of government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



REFLECTIONS ON A 2019 WORLD CRUISE

BY DONALD G. DAVIS, JR.

► Why would two rather ordinary people nearing 80 years of age take a six-month Around the World (ATW) cruise of 47,000 nautical miles, visiting 90 different ports? What could possibly motivate them to do such a thing? To spare your curiosity, the best thing about this cruise was sharing life for six whole months with Anita, my dear sweetie from Grand Junction CO!

Why did we go? At first it was a kind of dare, like “What kind of people ever do this kind of thing?” Then it was: “Could we ever do this?” Then it was a matter of finances and timing. (The trip for each of us cost about same as a full-size, fully equipped pickup truck.) Anita had been on a couple of shorter cruises, one of which she shared with me. We discovered that were excellent travelling companions.

What was the ship like? The Insignia of Oceania Cruises is one of the smaller ocean-going ships, with 680 or so guests and 400 crew members. It has the expected standard features, such as a fitness center, good library, complete spa, swimming pool, two specialty restaurants and a buffet, a Grand Dining Room, three bars, an observation lounge forward, jewelry and clothing boutiques, and a casino. The food, of course, was extraordinary—even though in six months, one grew familiar with the menus. We learned that in half a year we did not need to eat like one does on a ten-day cruise.

What route did you take? The cruise started for us in Miami on 14th January with stops in Havana, Cuba and Cartagena, Columbia before passing through the Panama Canal and up the western coast of Central America to Los Angeles. From there we crossed the Pacific to Hawaii, French Polynesia, American Samoa, Fiji and on to New Zealand and Australia. Then north through the Indonesian islands to the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japanese islands, before Japan itself. Then, southward along the east coast of Asia (China, Hong Kong, Viet Nam, Thailand) to Singapore. Then up the west coast (Malaysia, Thailand again) to Myanmar and over to the west coast of India (Cochin, Mangalore, Goa,

Mumbai) and over to the United Arab Emirates and on to Egypt, the Suez Canal, and Haifa (Israel). From there to Cyprus and Greek islands to Athens, the west coast of Italy, Monaco, and around Spain, through the Strait of Gibraltar to the west coast, Portugal, the north coast to Bordeaux. Next was Southampton and Liverpool in Britain and Belfast, Dublin, and Cork in Ireland. Crossing the north Atlantic, we visited St. Johns, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New York City, and Bermuda before returning to Miami on 11th July.

The weather was good with only two or three days of rock & roll seas. Temperatures varied a great deal from the tropics to quite cool.

What was a typical day like—at sea and in port? The six months were divided into 73 days at sea and 107 days in port—or a 40-60 divide. Generally, there was a reasonable mix to allow for anticipation and for recouping. On the at-sea days, we could have a leisurely breakfast and relax with reading, hearing good lectures on the history or wildlife of the regions we were headed for and the influence of relevant persons and events. On the in-port days we generally had to get up early to be ready for a coach tour excursion that would leave just after 8:00 a.m. and last for four hours or a full seven or eight hours. Some tours were mostly by bus with a few stops for photos and brief visits. Others entailed a great deal of walking, climbing up and down steps.

What ports did you want to see most? Most and least favorite places. I'd only been to about a quarter of the ports of call, so there were a lot of new sights for me. I most wanted to see French Polynesia and the South Pacific, Japan, the Gulf States, the Greek islands, and Portugal. But I found the island of Rhodes, Sorrento and the Amalfi coast, and Lisbon particularly fascinating. Ireland and Wales had its own unique appeal, as always. Kagoshima in Japan, Historic Lisbon, Oporto, and La Coruna (way to Santiago de Compostela) were especially attractive to me, as was St. George, Bermuda. If my favorite place was Oporto in Portugal, then my least favorite place was Salalah in Oman. The fact that both Anita and I had been offered positions separately in Wellington, New Zealand thirty years ago made us wonder why we did not consider them more seriously.

A hearty thanks goes to Anita for taking and selecting photos all along the way to place on her Facebook page: Anita Tureck Pisciotte. The visual

MEMBERS' SUMMER TRAVEL STORIES



Don and Anita taken aboard the Insignia in French Polynesia on Valentine's Day.

record is there for all to see.

Where would you like to return? I would like to return to Oporto or northwestern Portugal and Spain, to Kinsale, Ireland, and to St. George, Bermuda

Were there any dangerous moments? A security detail of maybe half-dozen very muscular men (ex-Navy Seals?) were on the ship from Mumbai in India to Haifa in Israel. (The women noticed them first, for some reason). We also had lights out at dusk from India to Egypt to not attract pirates, and an armed guard on our long tour bus from and back to Safaga in Egypt.

En route we averted or were just ahead of the volcano in Hawaii, an earthquake in Indonesia, a hurricane in the Bay of Bengal, the attack on tankers in the Strait of Hormuz, and the bombing in Cairo. In short, we stayed ahead of potential dangers.

What were the guests like? A little over half of the 680 guests were on the ATW cruise. Others came on for a segment or two--Los Angeles, Papeete (Tahiti), Sydney, Tokyo, Singapore, Dubai, Rome, London. The former, with some notable exceptions, seemed more relaxed and long-suffering than those guests on for several weeks who seemed to want to wring as much as they could in their shorter time.

The USA was home to most folk, with Canada, Australia and Europe represented also. Several guests spoke German, Spanish and Japanese as a native language. We came to enjoy this trip of a lifetime for what it was. But we don't identify ourselves as "cruisers" as a desirable way of life. There are too many important relationships and meaningful involvements at home that give us immense satisfaction.

How did you make friends? At lunch and dinner, we made it a practice of sitting at a table for four or six so that we could meet new people who had also chosen to sit with more than just two. We quickly found folk who were open and willing to share their lives with us. There were others who

were the opposite. The cruise thoughtfully sponsored gatherings for solo guests, Friends of Bill (the AA group) and for LGBTQX guests. I suppose we ended up with a dozen or fifteen couples and single folks with whom we may keep up.

What did you learn and how did you grow? Having never been on a cruise, I was eager to find out how to connect with the number and variety of guests. The point of contact with each one was different—and it usually involved revealing one's own self and asking good questions.

Spiritually, the journey was one of growth for me. I was able to work through on almost a daily basis a 180-day devotional guide and participate in an informal Bible study group and we attended the regular Sunday ecumenical worship.

Did the experience meet or exceed your expectations? My expectations were moderately high and the cruise amply met those aspirations. Though not a primary goal of my life, the cruise amply met my curiosity about the wide, wide world—cultures I had not encountered before. The relatively short times in so many ports had a downside of going very quickly, but the positive side was the variety of venues.

What did you like best and least about the cruise? Earlier I mentioned that the best part of the cruise was being with Anita for the extended time—a kind of "slow boat to China" and well beyond. The wonderful thing was not having to pack up every so many days, to have nourishing food and good sleep every night. The variety of ports and shipboard activities meant that there was no chance to be bored whatsoever.

The sad thing is that the trip was an introduction only to many sights, sounds, smells, and ideas that will take time to process. It also causes some grief that the friends who we became close to will never be as accessible as they were for six months.

Would you do it again? We think probably not. This was a once in a lifetime trip for us and time is running out. There may be shorter cruises, but six months away requires a great deal of preparation beforehand and catching up afterward.

What is your main and lasting impression? Other countries and societies can do some things far better, easier, and cheaper than we are used to the USA. While still a desirable place to be a citizen, other nations have a great deal to be proud of. The USA does not have all the answers to human organization. Natural beauty is universal and must be preserved.

I guess I came away humbled and determined to show more understanding and compassion to the citizens of this planet and to join with others of like mind. The cruise was an extraordinary experience.

To read the full text of Don's story, please go to our website: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa

Other RFSa members who had summer adventures include Nancy Payne, who participated in a moving and memorable tour to Normandy, France, lead by historian Tom Hatfield, a senior research fellow at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and one of the founders of the Normandy Scholars Program. We are certainly a well-traveled group!



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Littlefield Fountain. Photo by Matt Wright-Steele

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► Would you like to work on your interpersonal communication skills, public speaking and leadership development? Retirees are welcome to join this group for a fun, self-paced and inexpensive way to improve those skills. They meet every Thursday from 12:05 to 12:55; you are free to bring your lunch. Guests are welcome, so stop by one of the meetings to see if this group might be a good fit. More information is available at utstaff.toastmastersclubs.org

UT OUTPOST

► Hunger and food insecurity on our campus is real, and we know that can make it hard for students to do well academically. To help them stay in class and succeed, Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students has launched UT Outpost in the UA9 Building at 2609 University Avenue. The Outpost provides a food pantry offering nutritious non-perishable items, and they need donations year-round. They also have a Career Closet, offering new or gently used and cleaned professional clothing items. Some of the most-needed items include:

Food Pantry:

- Canned meats, such as tuna and chicken
- Canned and boxed meals, such as soup, chili, mac and cheese
- Peanut butter and other nut butters
- Canned or dried beans and peas
- Pasta, rice, cereal, dry mixes such as pancake mix
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- 100% fruit or vegetable juices that don't need refrigeration
- Shelf-stable milk, like dry milk or nut milk
- Healthy snacks like granola bars, nuts and dried fruit

Career Closet:

- Neck ties and bow ties
- Dress shirts and blouses, long and short sleeves
- Suit jackets, blazers and vests
- Black and brown belts
- Dress skirts
- Dress pants, slacks, capris
- Dress shoes, heels and flats
- New dress socks and stockings
- Portfolios, briefcases and purses
- Medical scrubs

Financial gifts are always needed, as well.

To learn more, go to bit.ly/UTOUTPOST or contact them at utoutpost@austin.utexas.edu or 512-232-6174.

You can bring your donations to the UT Outpost during weekly business hours (Tu. 3pm-7pm, We. 10am-2pm, Th. 2pm-6pm, Fr. 2pm-6pm).

VICTIMS ADVOCATE NETWORK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

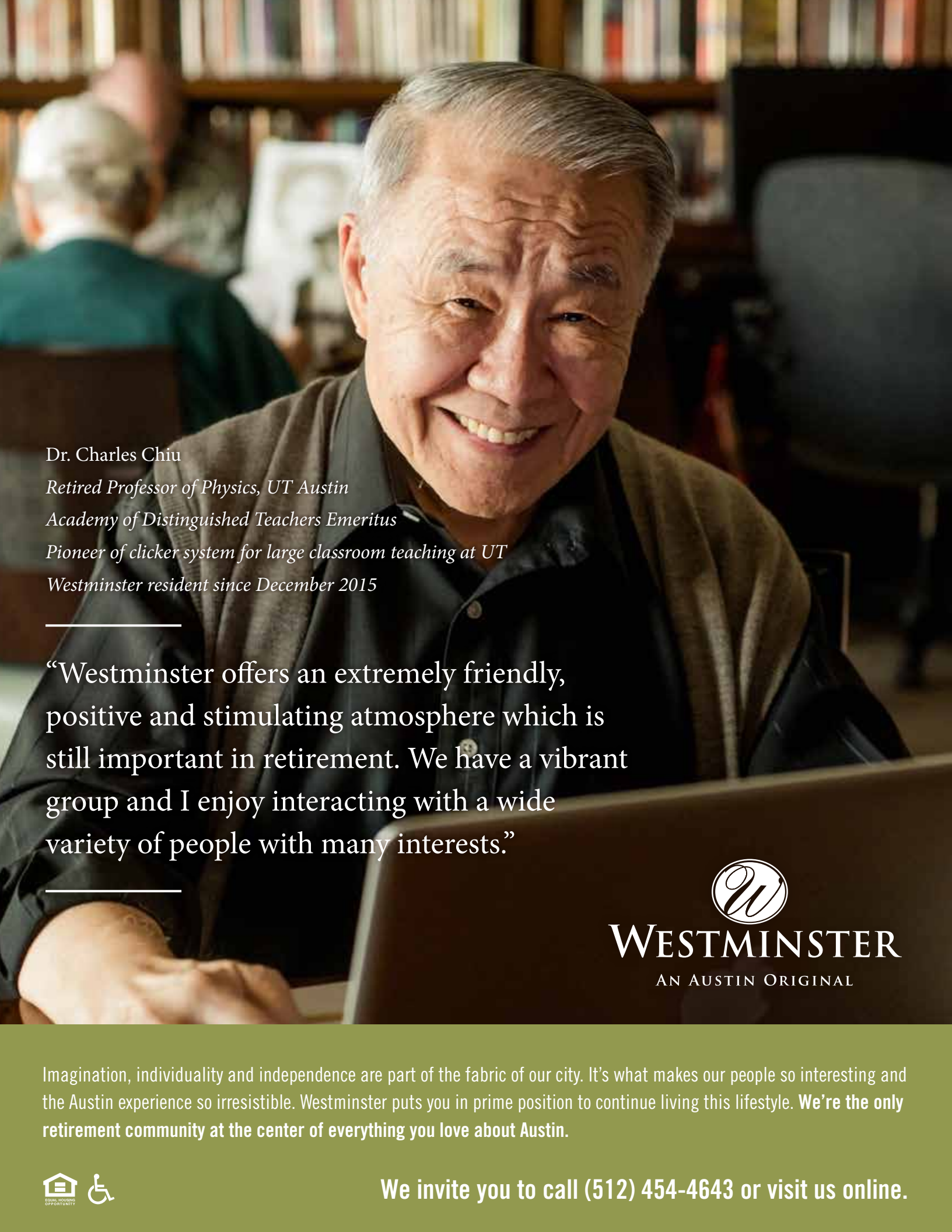
► The Victims Advocate Network (VAN) is a group of volunteers drawn from UT faculty, staff and retirees to serve staff, students and visitors impacted by crime or some other distressing event on campus. VAN reached out to RFSa because our members would bring years of life experience as well as in-depth knowledge of UT to volunteer service.

VAN currently has 20 volunteers, with a goal of 40, to enable 24-hour on-call service. VAN volunteers respond at the request of UT Police officers to provide mental health first aid, advocacy, and practical assistance to victims of crime or individuals impacted by distressing events on campus. Volunteers receive valuable training, both internally and through collaboration with the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Integral Care, and the Austin Police Department.

Qualifications to volunteer:

- Complete the volunteer application and the Information Release (background check) form.
- Commit to at least 16 hours of on-call availability each month. Shifts are in 4-hour blocks, and scheduling is flexible. Being on-call means that volunteers can respond to campus within 30 minutes of being called.
- Complete the training requirements. There is a self-paced training process, and ongoing monthly training.
- Must have a working cell phone.
- Must have state-required insurance for your vehicle.

If it is important to you that members of the UT community do not go without on-scene emotional support, practical support, and linkage to resources following a distressing experience, you are encouraged to reach out to the VAN Program Coordinator by writing to victims-network@austin.utexas.edu or call 512-232-9699 to explore how you might be able to support and promote VAN's mission. More information available at police.utexas.edu/services/victims-advocate-network.



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SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

► RFSA's Scholarship Fund is our main, and most impactful, service project. It was created in 1983 and the first scholarship was awarded in 1988. Last summer, our fund reached a milestone of surpassing one million dollars in market value.

In addition to undesignated donations, members and friends are encouraged to make contributions in memory or honor of family, friends and colleagues; in celebration of particular events; and through estate donations. Last fall, our organization committed to match any donations with reallocated operating funds, and some of that match is still available. So, if you donate soon, you can double the amount of your donation. Please consider a contribution – it will truly make a difference in a student's life.

Donate By Mail

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You are also able to donate online through the UT Online Giving website at
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The "Gift Designation" line should read "Retired Faculty-Staff Association". Enter the amount you wish to give and complete the rest of the information requested. You will receive an electronic acknowledgement from UT and a written acknowledgement from RFSA in the mail.

RFSA SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

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In memory of Billie Herring

In memory of Dr. Mark W. Seng

Carolyn Wylie

Peggy Mueller

In memory of Stephen C. Ruppel

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In May 2019, nineteen students were awarded a \$2,500 scholarship for the 2019-2020 academic year. As a way of introducing our membership to these outstanding students, we asked them to respond to several questions. All awardees are listed below with the responses submitted.

The full text of the responses is found at sites.utexas.edu/rfsa. In the future, we plan to continue this feature in every Fall/Winter magazine issue. Congratulations to these outstanding students!



MIR ALI

Hometown Ft. Worth, TX
School College of Natural Sciences
Major Neuroscience BSA

Year in School: 3rd Year

What are my career goals?

Hopefully, one day, I can change lives and impact others positively. I would like to do this through practicing medicine, ideally in the neurological field.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving a scholarship means receiving a gift that I need to use to benefit my education and academic pursuits I was so fortunate to be selected, and this motivates me to achieve and continue my scholastic endeavors.



SHAYAN ALI

Hometown Sugar Land, Texas
School McCombs School of Business
Major Management Information Systems

Year in School: Sophomore
(Entering Junior year this fall)

What are my career goals?

When I graduate from college, I want to work for a consulting firm to help implement strategy and technology at a variety of companies. Later down the road, I want to attend graduate school and get an MBA.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving a scholarship means the world to me. It isn't just something that will help me pay off college. The scholarship symbolizes all my hard work, perseverance, and dedication to school and extra-curricular activities

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



OMAR ALY

Hometown Arlington, VA, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

School Cockrell School of Engineering

Major Chemical Engineering

Year in School: Senior, graduating next spring

What are my career goals?

I hope to attend graduate school to pursue a PhD in Chemical Engineering once I graduate, though I'm not entirely sure what I would like to research yet. .

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

This scholarship is huge to me. It will cover the costs of applying for graduate schools (\$60+ per application) and it will also cover the costs of taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exams.



JESSE BEAMAN

Hometown Columbus, Indiana

School School of Design and Creative Technology

Major Design

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

As a student, I have the privilege of considering new career goals all the time, and my goals frequently change. Now, I am very interested in design theory, history, and research. I will likely continue in graduate work in design history and theory.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Scholarships and grants make it possible for me to go to school without crippling debt. Scholarships hold me to a higher academic standard. Without the support, I can confidently say that I would not be able to excel in my studies.



JAHNVI BHAKTA

Hometown San Antonio, Texas

School McCombs School of Business

Major Finance

Year in School: Junior

What are my career goals?

Within the field of finance, I hope to eventually rise to the level of partner in an investment firm. I want to develop a strategy of investing in a socially responsible manner which benefits all parties involved. This type of strategy has been utilized in the past few years, and by fine-tuning it, I want to turn it into a mainstream technique for generating returns.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Being awarded a scholarship feels like a validation of the highest degree. This scholarship allows me to pursue my dreams without the weight of financial distress holding me back.

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

RACHEL BRAKE

School College of Engineering

Major Chemical Engineering



JIMIN CHUN

Hometown Dallas, TX

School Nursing

Major Nursing

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

My career goals are to be fully equipped with knowledge and skills to work in the OR.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

I greatly appreciate all the help and support given through the scholarship. The financial aid you graciously provided will enable me to study what I love at UT without worrying about figuring out ways to fund my educational expenses. It will serve as a stepping stone to achieve my future goals as a nurse. Once again, thank you.

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2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



CHANTELLE D'SOUZA

Hometown Houston, Texas

School College of Natural Sciences

Major BS in Biology with a specialization in Microbiology and Infectious Disease

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

After graduation, I aim on working within a microbiological or public health research facility in order to understand what biomedical and infrastructural initiatives are being taken to understand infectious diseases, their prevalence in certain areas and methods of restraining their spread. After gaining such work experience, I will continue my postgraduate studies either at medical school or graduate school.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

I moved to Houston in 2015 from Karachi, Pakistan. My family and I are asylees and we moved to the US to seek refuge from religious persecution. My parents relied on their savings to pay for our living expenses and legal fees, before they managed to find stable jobs themselves. This scholarship means that their sacrifice was not in vain, and inspires me to continue working hard for our family.



BIANCA GARCIA

Hometown Houston, Texas

School College of Education

Major Kinesiology

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

I plan to receive my MD/MBA and become the dean of diversity and inclusion at a Texas medical school to be a part of the larger conversations.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving this scholarship has grown my faith and shown me my efforts do not go unnoticed. It has made me realize that although my identity is not rooted in the number of awards I receive, my experiences are valued and carry weight.



ANAPAUOLA GUAJARDO

Hometown Monterrey Mexico, but I have lived in Laredo TX and I currently live in McAllen TX

School Moody College of Communication and College of Fine Arts

Major BS: Radio-Television-Film and BA Theatre and Dance: Performance Process and a minor in Latino Media Studies

Year in School: Junior

What are my career goals?

During my time at UT, I have come to learn about the misrepresentation of minorities and women in the media. I want to be part of the social change that is slowly taking over our country as more creative people of color gain a place in the industry. I chose to double major with acting because that is what I always wanted to do. I want to be a role model to the young women like myself who never saw themselves represented.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

This scholarship is such an honor for me because it means that someone somewhere believed I was worthy of an education and that my creative aspirations are as valid as those of STEM majors. This scholarship allows me to continue my education with less stress. I endlessly thank you all for this wonderful gift.

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



XUAN JIANG

Hometown Hangzhou, China

School McCombs School of Business

Major MIS and Economics

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

I want to pursue a career in Data Analytics.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving this scholarship is a great honor for me. It means a lot because not only is it helping me with college, but it will be a great help for me to pursue my future master's degree.



ALEXANDER KANORA

Hometown Naples, Florida

School Cockrell School of Engineering

Major Chemical Engineering

Year in School: 5th year this coming August due to school transfer

What are my career goals?

I hope to one day work in drilling in some respect, and help optimize the processes to run with higher efficiency. Therefore, companies could extract the same minerals or even more with less environmental damage.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving a scholarship is more than just a monetary gift. It is a communication from others that what I am doing has meaning, and therefore is a wise investment.



ANDREI KLEINSCHMIDT

Hometown Mexico City, Mexico

School McCombs School of Business

Major Master of Business Administration

Year in School: 2nd year

What are my career goals?

The MBA is helping me change industries, while also improving my compensation and accelerate my network growth. After the MBA I would like fully transition into the Tech or Clean Tech industry, as a project or finance manager.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving a scholarship is an amazing achievement that shows that hard work and focus result in positive rewards. It also helps alleviate the financial burden that comes from the opportunity to receive a degree from a top university like UT.

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



YANA MASKOV

Hometown Plano, TX

School College of Pharmacy

Major Pharmacy

Year in School: Professional School (P4)

What are my career goals?

Following the completion of my doctoral degree from the College of Pharmacy, I hope to pursue a residency in order to become a board-certified clinical pharmacist. I am interested in infectious disease, oncology, and pharmacy administration.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving this scholarship is a huge honor and privilege. As I embark on my final year of pharmacy school, which is comprised of going on rotations full-time in a different city. This scholarship helps relieve my financial burden, while also serving as a reminder that the work I am doing is not going unnoticed.



TAYLOR MORGAN

Hometown Ashburn, Virginia

School Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Major Master of Science in Social Work

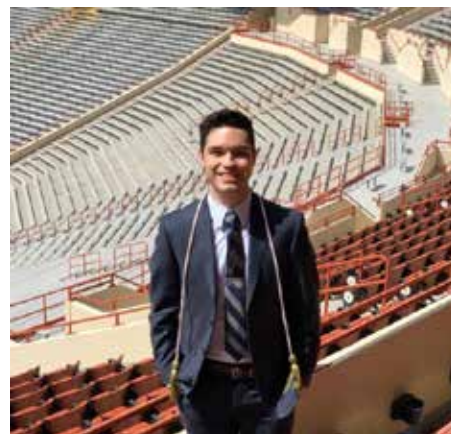
Year in School: 2nd

What are my career goals?

I am going to pursue a career working with adolescents. I am particularly interested in working in middle schools or high schools. Those are difficult periods for many people, and I want to be able to provide support for adolescents facing incredibly complex situations.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

This scholarship is an immense honor and privilege. I am incredibly grateful for everything this represents, and it truly represents so much to me. This scholarship is an opportunity to extend my time in a city where I, for the first time, truly feel a sense of community.



JAIME PEÑA

Hometown Mission, Texas

School College of Pharmacy

Major Pharmacy

Year in School: 4th/P4

What are my career goals?

Upon graduation, I wish to pursue a residency in the hopes of becoming an infectious disease pharmacist.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

This scholarship does more than offer financial security. It broadens my horizons by opening opportunities. It ensures that I can receive the best training and education in preparation for clinical practice.

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



MAOJING QIN

Hometown Baytown, Texas

School College of Natural Sciences

Major Biochemistry, Pre-Med

Year in School: Junior

What are my career goals?

My career goals are to heal, treat and relieve ailments that strip a person's safety and wellbeing. By forging a path towards becoming a surgeon, I hope to gain the skill sets, experiences, and knowledge to be able to directly touch and heal the bodies of the wounded, injured, diseased, and aged.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Being a first-generation college student in my family, I hope to set an empowering example for my brothers, the rest of my family in China, and others like me who are finding their way in this vast ocean of opportunities to act towards their personal visions of fulfillment and success. By receiving the scholarship, I am blessed with a sense of clarity and security that my pathway to achieving my goals will be approbated which truly means the world to me.



RUTH RAICHUR

Hometown Bangalore, India

School College of Natural Sciences

Major Biology, Genetics and Genomics

Year in School: Sophomore as of Fall 2019

What are my career goals?

My goal is to pursue a career in research in the field of genetics. My hope is to contribute to the study in gene therapy, providing better and more specific health care.

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

It is an honor to be a recipient of a scholarship. It is extremely encouraging to receive support in a way that assists me in my journey toward my dream. There is also a sense of fulfillment to see my hard work being recognized, for which I am eternally grateful.



SOFIA VALDEZ

Hometown Laredo, Texas

School College of Engineering

Major Mechanical engineering

Year in School: Senior

What are my career goals?

My career goal is to work for a company that prioritizes the betterment of our planet, either, one that achieves its goals sustainably, or one whose main product or service revolves around renewable energy (such as a solar panel company).

What does receiving a scholarship mean to me:

Receiving a scholarship means the absolute world to me. To know that someone out there not only acknowledges the work I've put into my academics, but also believes in me, and believes that I will do something meaningful one day, motivates me tremendously.



IN MEMORIAM

This column honors the memory of active and retired University of Texas at Austin and University of Texas System faculty and staff whose deaths have been made known to us between May 1 and November 1, 2019. 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 jbfrock@gmail.com.

Charlotte Horton Allen, 97

Administrative Assistant, Balcones Research Center
May 19, 2019

Dick Barndt, 88

Professor Emeritus, School of Law
May 18, 2019

Robert Stephen Bickerstaff, 73

Adjunct Professor, School of Law
October 4, 2019

Brian Reid Bryant, 68

Project Director, Special Education
August 24, 2019

Joyce Rydberg Chaney, 86

Senior Administrative Associate, Lock and Key Services
June 9, 2019

Moton H. Crockett, Jr., 96

Director, Longhorn Band
September 25, 2019

Frank B. Cross, 63

Herbert D. Kelleher Centennial Professorship in Business Law; Professor Emeritus, Department of Business, Government and Society, School of Law
April 27, 2019

Ken Dabbs, 84

Assistant Football Coach, Recruiting Coordinator
October 16, 2019

Donald L. Gibbs, 76

Head Bibliographer, Benson Latin American Collection Library
October 19, 2019

Don Graham, 79

J. Frank Dobie Professor of English and American Literature
June 22, 2019

Thomas Alan Griffy, 82

Professor Emeritus, Physics; Associate Dean of the Graduate School
May 4, 2019

Leo Franklin Hamilton, 89

Cataloguer/Professional Librarian, General Libraries
April 13, 2019

Margery DeFord Hauck, 83

Senior Office Assistant, Personnel Services
September 10, 2019

Billie Grace Herring, 86

Professor Emerita, Graduate School of Library and Information Science
August 31, 2019

Evan Peter Kyba, 79

Professor, Chemistry
September 15, 2019

W. Bernard (Bill) Lukenbill, 80

Professor Emeritus, School of Information
August 29, 2019

Virginia Diane Lyons, 66

Administrative Assistant, Center for Space Research
September 30, 2019

Guy James Manaster, 81

Charles H. Spence, Sr. Centennial Professorship in Education; Professor Emeritus, Educational Psychology
October 15, 2019

Leo Benedict Osterhaus, 99

Adjunct Professor, Management
July 28, 2019

Birdie Jean Pinson, 95

Building Attendant, Custodial Services
Summer, 2019

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Podio, 76

*Wife of Tony Podio, H.B. Harkins, Jr.
Professor of Petroleum Engineering
July 13, 2019*

Charles Hardin Pollard, 76

*Construction Manager, UT System
July 16, 2019*

Marguerite Rose (Biemer) Ponder, 75

*Counselor Specialist, Counseling
Center
May 26, 2019*

Diane Kay Puryear, 79

*Senior Administrative Associate,
Department of Drama, Theater and
Dance
April 25, 2019*

Rosalinda T. Robbins, 71

*Administrative Assistant, Department
of Civil Engineering
May 29, 2019*

Charles Nichols Roper, 73

*Health Education Counselor, UT
Health Services
October 11, 2019*

Rose Joan Rung, 89

*Senior Administrative Associate,
Center for Transportation
April 29, 2019*

Stephen Craig Ruppel, 73

*Senior Research Scientist and Lecturer,
Bureau of Economic Geology
October 21, 2019*

Susan Siegel Sharlot, 80

*Widow of M. Michael Sharlot, Wright
C. Morrow Professor of Law
May 23, 2019*

David A. Sollinger, 90

*Sergeant, UT Police Department
June 22, 2019*

James Leon Snider, 86

*Technical Staff Assistant V, College of
Engineering
August 13, 2019*

David Starr

*Library Specialist, UT Libraries
May 12, 2019*

John Tate, 94

*Professor Emeritus, Mathematics
October 18, 2019*

John Christopher Theofanis, Jr., 69

*Academic Advisor II, Natural Sciences
June 2, 2019*

Thomas Waggoner, 70

*Supervisor of Student Teaching,
Program Director of Fine Arts
Education, Butler School of Music
August 6, 2019*

Victor Adolf Walther, 90

*Supervisor of Construction and
Maintenance, UT Physical Plant
April 25, 2019*

Barbara Williams White, 76

*Dean Emeritus, School of Social Work
July 19, 2019*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

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 its members and The University. A complete statement of the purposes of the association can be found in the constitution. Submissions may be emailed to: *donnabell1015@gmail.com* or mailed to *Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes, P.O. Box 7278, Austin, TX 78713*

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