

RFSA MAGAZINE

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



**A YEAR FOR THE
HISTORY BOOKS**

pg. 12

**THE EYES OF
TEXAS HISTORY
COMMITTEE**

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**UT HISTORY
CORNER: BEWARE
OF LAW STUDENTS
BEARING GIFTS**

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SPRING/SUMMER 2021

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2020-21

2021-22

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Back Cover Photo: Turtle Pond. Photo by Robert Childress.

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COVID-19 STATEMENT

We hope you are staying safe, have received your vaccinations, and that we can resume RFSA activities in person by this fall.

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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



► WOW – what a year this has been...and a year not like any other in our memory. Hopefully this is a year never to be replicated. A statement not to be taken lightly.

The challenges were many and great. Thank goodness we had our crisp, memorable, and inspiring mission

statement to guide us onward through the fog.

When we were befuddled by challenges this strong sense of purpose showed us the way.

The biggest dilemma was deciding how to proceed with programming in absence of gathering together.

Technology somewhat came to the rescue especially with the creativity and strong tech support of the Ex-Students team.

Programming and activities of all the Interest Groups had to become virtual, and that was not even possible for some of them. We all had a steep learning curve about online meetings and speakers. But the Health Interest Group, in particular, managed to continue its programming virtually. And we shared numerous links to online performances and activities, which we hope to continue. The silver lining in our year of shutdown was learning new ways of working to provide services to our members.

Now that it is possible to more safely gather, our activities and programs are regaining their robust schedule and participation. We fully expect to gather together in the fall for a full slate of activities, travel, and especially our membership meeting. It will be wonderful to greet our friends and colleagues whom we haven't seen for many months.

Through this past year we were able to continue to advocate for our members. When it was announced that UT would be providing

The RFSA of The University of Texas at Austin provides the point of connection, continuity and communication for the mutual benefit of members and The University.

COVID-19 vaccine for students, faculty, and staff, we requested that retirees, as a vulnerable part of the university family be included in the vaccine program. It is not known whether that communication made a difference or not, nevertheless, shortly thereafter vaccines were made available to retirees.

The Board worked diligently to exercise its commitment to diversity and inclusion both in the leadership of RFSA and also in programming and policy. We took deliberate steps to broaden the diversity of our program presenters as well as the membership of the Board. We still have work to do in that arena.

Other challenges are revitalizing our member recruitment efforts and the retention of our current members. We need all of you to help in these arenas particularly in the recruitment of new members. Your retiring colleagues in UT departments, divisions, colleges, and schools need to hear from you about the value of RFSA membership. You are our best recruiters – and we need your help.

The heavy lifting this year was done by the Board members. Thanks all around for their creativity and diligence to keep RFSA in service to the members in certainly non-traditional ways. The Ex-Students staff were always there to provide ideas and inspiration. Carol Barrett is our rock. She magically makes things possible. There isn't enough praise for her dedication to RFSA.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve RFSA as President this past year. RFSA has a terrific incoming President in Tany Norwood. Tany and Eleanor Moore, the past president, were my brain trust this year. Their advice, counsel, creativity, humor and good will went a long way to helping smooth the big bumps.

I want to specifically give thanks for the service of our outgoing officers: Member at Large Jim Vick, Travel Co-Chairs Marcia and Mike Arn and Karen and John Harrison, Past President Eleanor Moore, Photographer/Website Co-Chair Joyce McClendon and Magazine Editor Donna Bellinghausen.

2021 will be a great year – and we look forward to experiencing it with you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

— CORKY HILLIARD, *President, 2020-21*

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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VIRTUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

► RFSA members always look forward to our spring membership meeting, which usually includes a great meal, a lot of handshakes and hugs, fun visiting and entertainment in the Connally Banquet Hall of the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. Although it looked a lot different this year due to COVID19, members still got together virtually. It was fun to see everyone via Microsoft Teams, thanks to the technical support of the Texas Exes staff, and the meeting content was excellent as always.



ABOVE: Members participating in Virtual Spring Meeting

RFSA President **Corky Hilliard** welcomed everyone, noting that it has been a challenging year as we continue in our mission to provide the point of connection, continuity, and communication for the benefit of our members and The University. Our focus for this year has been diversity and inclusion, recruitment of members and leadership, and scholarships. The board has worked hard to keep RFSA in members' lives through opportunities to connect virtually with UT's talents and treasures. Thanks to all who helped make that possible.



Guest Speaker Dr. H. W. Brands, who holds the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History and served on *The Eyes of Texas* History Committee

Sharon Justice introduced our guest speaker, **Dr. H. W. Brands**, who holds the Jack S. Blanton Sr. Chair in History and served on the recent *The Eyes of Texas* History Committee. The RFSA membership heard last spring from Dr. Richard Reddick, who chaired that committee. Dr. Brands gave an excellent overview of the committee's work and findings. A number of questions were raised and discussed, and it was noted that it is appropriate in the university setting for honest and sincere people to differ on issues. The committee's full report is available at eyesoftexas.utexas.edu.

We also were treated to a presentation by **Dr. Andrée Bober**, Director of UT Austin's Landmarks Public Arts Program, who was introduced by **Charles Roeckle**. The program is a legacy of retiring Dean of Fine Arts **Doug Dempster**, and is ranked as one of the top three university art programs in the nation. It was created in 2008 to enrich the University experience by placing works of contemporary art into the UT campus landscape. The program provides a threshold for students to engage with art. Every college on the campus has used Landmarks in their curricula. A tour of the Landmarks will be scheduled for RFSA members when we are able to return to the campus. See details and photos at landmarks.utexas.edu.

BELOW: UT Harp Ensemble

A special part of our typical membership luncheons is entertainment. **George Frock** arranged for and introduced the **UT Harp Ensemble**. In a recorded video, Professor of Harp **Delaines Leonard** introduced the student performers, who explained the unique challenges of rehearsals and performance when students can't be together in person. The trio did meet together (physically distanced) to record their performance of *Bring Him Home* from "Les Miserables" and Aria in Classic Style.



VIRTUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In spite of the pandemic, a number of RFSA programs have been active, including:

- Scholarships Chair **Lael Hasty** reported that RFSA gave 19 scholarships of \$2,500 each for 2020-21. We have received \$6,500 in donations since October, and \$1,200 from 11 donors during UT's recent 40 for 40 Campaign. Lael encouraged donations through the RFSA website or by check. She introduced three scholarship recipients who made pre-recorded video remarks - Felipe Gonzalez Gutierrez, Allen Wen, and Harrison Jin.
- Co-Treasurer **Tany Norwood** shared a budget summary for the year and actual year-to-date figures. Any excess over \$25,000 will be moved to a reserve fund, as prescribed by policy. The projected year-end balance is \$26,523; balance on 3/31/2021 was \$26,182.
- Tany also gave an update on the RFSA magazine, which is published twice a year. The editor position is vacant; anyone interested in working on the magazine should contact Tany.
- Travel Co-Chair **Karen Harrison** explained that the RFSA's highly successful travel program has been a source of good income for our scholarship program. Due to the pandemic, last year's "Rails and Trails" trip to New England was rescheduled for Oct. 9-16. Details are available on the RFSA website: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa

BELOW:

1) *Monochrome for Austin* by Nancy Rubins, located at Northwest corner of 24th Street and Speedway

2) *Clock Knot* by Mark di Suvero, located on berm between CPE and ETC



Corky thanked outgoing officers: Past President **Eleanor Moore**, At-Large Member **Jim Vick**, Magazine Editor **Donna Bellinghausen**, Photographer/Website Co-Chair **Joyce McClendon**, and Travel Co-Chairs **Karen and John Harrison** and **Marcia and Mike Arn**. The new leadership for 2021, whose term began at the end of the meeting, is listed on page two. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to lead RFSA in this challenging year and encouraged others to consider serving on the board. She also acknowledged **Carol Barrett and The Texas Exes** for their experience, expertise, and support.

Incoming President **Tany Norwood** thanked Corky for her strong and flexible leadership during the pandemic, noting that when many organizations shut down, RFSA will emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever, thanks to Corky's leadership. She thanked members for attending today, and encouraged their future participation.

If you were not able to join our spring meeting, you can see it on YouTube: youtu.be/5o65abLQQ3w

INTEREST GROUPS

BRIDGE

▶ We haven't done anything in the past six months, but hope that the Bridge group will be able to meet someday in the future, perhaps the fall if UT opens up its facilities by then.

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

EXERCISE

▶ The exercise group has been in suspension since March of last year. We are eager to get back to the gym (as soon as it's safe) and resume our weekly routines. At that time, we will also welcome any new members who would like to give us a try. After all these months of virtual meetings it will be wonderful to see each other face to face again.

We meet twice a week in Gregory Gym (Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8:30 - 9:30) for a variety of exercises led by our experienced and well-trained instructors. We have men and women members of a wide range of fitness, and our instructors are happy to devise alternate routines as needed for those with special needs. For more information, contact Carolyn Wylie, cateswylie@gmail.com, 512/453-2556.

FOODIES

▶ The Foodie Group remains in a holding pattern until groups can get together, freely, in restaurants. We were in contact with each other in early March where we decided to continue to wait until most, if not all, restrictions have been lifted. I expect that to happen in late summer, early fall. We are all looking forward to being able to gather again.

If you are interested in joining the Foodie Group, contact Bob Lawrence at rjlawrence1031@gmail.com.

HEALTH

▶ The Spring Sessions were easier for all members after the learning curve for the Fall Sessions. Of course, it would be great to meet in person, but the new knowledge we receive by Zoom works too. The Spring Series was the result of working with Raquel Epstein at the Dell Medical Center. This Spring we learned about 1) back and neck pain, 2) how to check our gut for heartburn and other digestive diseases, and 3) what an ophthalmologist does and ocular manifestations.

Dr. Mark Queralt, Medical Director of the Back and Neck Pain Center UT Health Austin Musculoskeletal Institute as well as Assistant Professor Dell Medical School Department of Neurology, spoke to us February 15, 2021. In the seminar participants learned about the many causes of back pain, the pathophysiology of the disease, and a review of treatment options. The topic was engaging and participants easily generated questions for Mark.

The March 15th session titled "Gut Check" was given by Gastroenterologist, Deepsk Agrawal, MD. He presented an overview of the digestive disease and how the Digestive Health Program, a clinical partnership between Ascension Seton and UT Health Austin, provides a unique, innovative, and effective approach to diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Tripp Buckley, a surgeon and former heartburn sufferer, then explained the causes of heartburn, how it is diagnosed and the treatment options you have for alleviating and sometimes eliminating heartburn for good. Both speakers were from Ascension Seton and UT Health Austin; Dr. Buckley is the Surgical Director and Dr. Agrawal is Medical Director.

The final Spring session was April 12th given by Dr. Eric Crowell, Medical Director at UT Health Austin Mitchel and Shannon Wong Eye Institute. The title, "Ocular Manifestations of System Conditions" began with participants learning what an ophthalmologist does, followed by information about ocular manifestations, including macula and optic nerve conditions. Dr. Crowell was clear in his answers about eye conditions and an engaging presenter.

Please join us for our next Health Interest Group seminar in September! Thank you for joining us and have a Great Summer 2021!

Presented by Linda Millstone (lmwiseone@gmail.com) & Karrol Kitt (kkitt@austin.utexas.edu).

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES

▶ As in so many situations during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been reminded of some good things that we are missing. In the case of the RFSA Speaker Series, we realize what a gift we receive by the use of the Austin Public Library conference rooms for our events. These meetings, which would likely be impossible without the free conference rooms, allow our members to remain engaged with interesting topics and interact with one another.

We will make a new plan for speakers when the Howson Library space opens and in-person meetings are again possible. We do not know when that will be, but hope that we can resume normal activity again this fall.

For more information, contact organizers Alice Reinartz (areinartz@tam.u.edu), Don Davis (dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu) and Phil Kelton (pwkelton@gmail.com)

INTEREST GROUPS



ABOVE:
Mt. Washington, NH Cog
Railway

TRAVEL

► The RFSA Travel Committee organizes and facilitates travel for RFSA members and friends, with the help of our travel agent, Lori Threatt of Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants, LLC, to travel in preplanned tours of both the US and abroad. Interaction with former travelers as well as new friends always presents wonderful memories and experiences with every trip taken.

Our New England Rails and Trails trip that was postponed last fall due to COVID-19, will take place this fall from October 9 to October 15, 2021. Although the final registration date was June 25th, should you be interested in this trip, please contact Lori Threatt at 737-228-3680. Masks and completion of COVID-19 vaccinations are required to travel.

After flying from Austin on the morning of Saturday, October 9th, the trip begins in Boston with a city tour and departs from Portland, Maine a week later. The trip includes two rail journeys in the New Hampshire mountains (one being a 3-hour ride on the first cogway rail system in the world and the other a nostalgic ride

through the scenic Mt. Washington Valley countryside on restored historic railcars), a visit to an agricultural farm and museum, a visit to a maple syrup farm, a scenic drive along the Kancamagus Highway which includes roaring rivers and covered bridges, a trip through Woodstock, N.H., a visit to a working dairy farm, a night's stay in the scenic and historic Vermont mountains, a visit to Shelburne Museum in the Lake Champlain Valley, and a stop at the Ben and Jerry Ice Cream factory, which, of course, includes a scoop of their famous ice cream. The trip will conclude in Portland, Maine with a Casco Bay Cruise and a visit to the Portland Head Lighthouse and Museum, prior to a farewell lobster dinner, the evening of October 14th. Travelers will return home on Friday, October 15th.

Travel Co-Chairs are:

Mike & Marcia Arn at
texmarn@att.net or mjarn50@hotmail.com

John & Karen Harrison at
kjharrison17@gmail.com.

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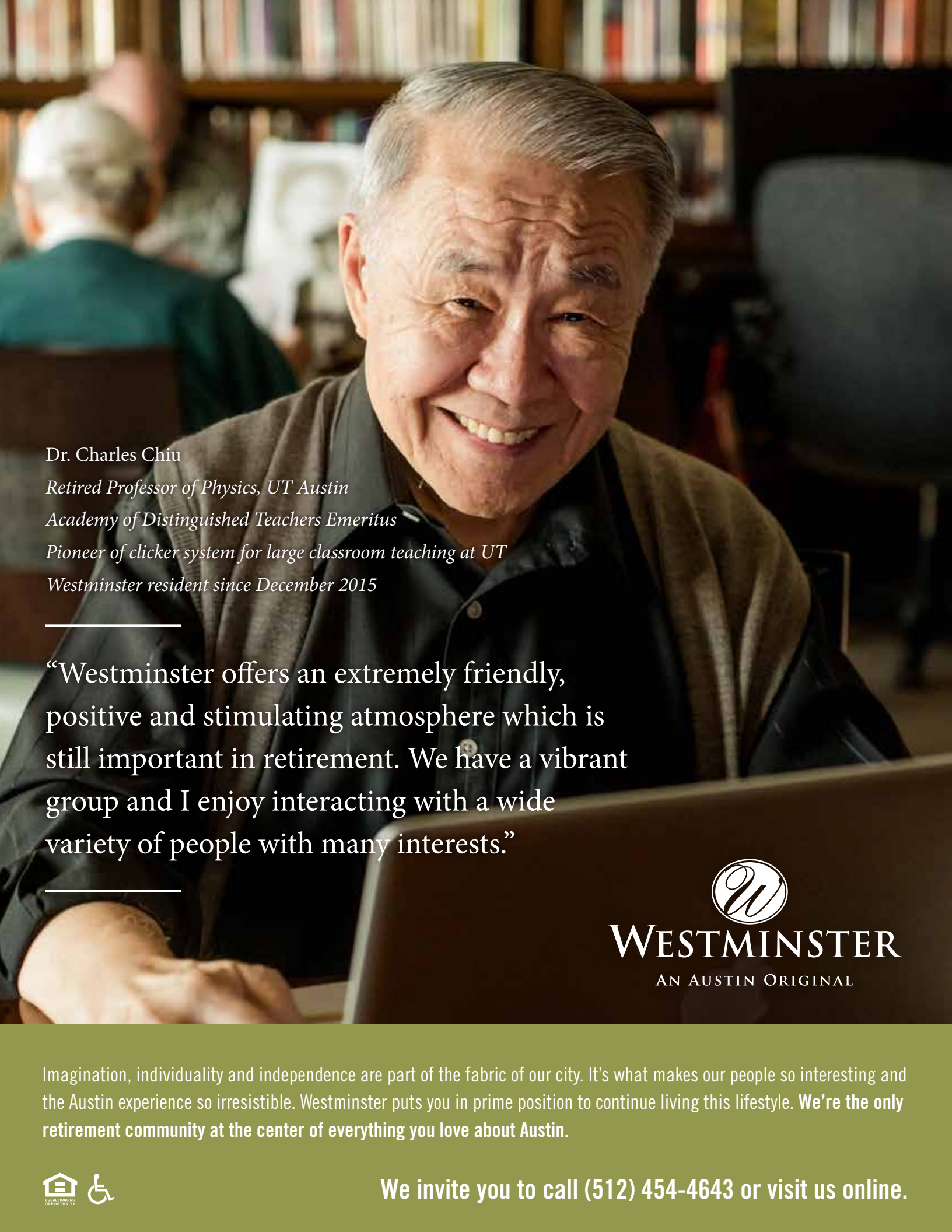
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REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

FROM OUR MEMBERS

BY TANY NORWOOD, *RFSA President 2021-22*

► By March, 2020, it became clear that a new and dangerous virus was rapidly spreading throughout the U.S. and the world. We entered a shutdown unlike anything most of us had ever experienced. By spring, 2021, most of us had gotten the vaccine for Covid-19, and we have started carefully resuming life outside our cocoon. But this was an important historical event and we wanted to find out how our members handled it.

We asked RFSA members to answer three questions:

1. What did you do during the pandemic?
2. What did you learn about yourself and about others during this time?
3. Once it is safe to travel again, where do you plan to go first?

The responses were as varied as our membership but reflect how many of us managed this difficult time. Some of us were really productive, some of us relaxed during our down time, and most of us did a little of both. We also received two poems that powerfully reflect the impact of the year; thank you to Kaye Abikhaled and Laraine Lasdon for sharing these gifts with RFSA.

WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE PANDEMIC?

“During the pandemic I tuned my life to isolation, keeping at home and writing.” —**Kaye Abikhaled**

“Although the pandemic certainly changed the way our lives operated, I stayed busy and kept connected with my friends and family via phone and all the new options for connecting via computer/smartphone. I did a lot of deck and driveway happy hours...a perfect way to stay in touch. Twice we set up computers to watch the symphony on the driveway. Had a Christmas cookie exchange with my friends on the driveway one Saturday in December. Was able to meet my daughter and her family at several outside venues during the months that they were open. That said, I did spend Easter, Mother’s Day, Thanksgiving and

Christmas having dinner for one. I made at least five runs to Stonewall to get peaches during May/June and July and bought for various friends as well. Did weekly happy hours on Zoom or FB with various Texas wineries. My daughter and her family had Covid over Thanksgiving, so I was able to spend New Year’s weekend with them in Comanche. I was vaccinated in January, so went to Houston to visit with my brother and his family for the first time in a year. I also spent this Easter with my daughter and her family.”

—**Robin Fradenburgh**

“I went to my church every week and helped make sack lunches for our Austin’s homeless population who attend our “All God’s Children” worship on Wednesdays. I also attended Ladies Bible Class on zoom every Tuesday. As Bailli of the Austin Chaine des Rotisseurs (the world’s oldest food and wine organization established in 1248), I coordinated wine tastings on zoom each month for our members. We posted wine and food photos submitted by members on our web site. I began to exercise and walk at least 2 miles per day in my neighborhood. I lost 14 pounds! I cleaned out all closets and the garage. I worked on my cookbook and made wonderful and new food I had never made before. I gardened.”

—**Lael Hasty**

“I didn’t bake banana bread and I didn’t learn a new foreign language. I did clean out some closets and recycled some clothes that haven’t been worn for a few years. I ate. I read a lot of good fiction and non-fiction books. Watched television. Ate. Served on two committees using zoom. Ate. Counted the days until this pandemic would be over or at a minimum give us some freedom to move about. And fussed at myself for eating so much.”

—**Sharon Justice**

“We did a number of new or expanded activities during the pandemic. My primary new focus was on genealogy. Expanding on what I already knew has been a long-time goal. I built upon the work of my father and grandfather

and substantially increased what we know about my family history. I sorted through many old documents and photos, digitized many of them, did a lot of online research to discover more ancestors, and read several books relevant to my ancestors. I produced a book of about 150



Bailliage d'Austin

ABOVE:

Logo of world’s oldest food & wine organization, provided by Lael Hastings

BELOW:

- 1) Moon photo by Phil Kelton
- 2) Orion nebula photo by Phil Kelton



A YEAR FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

pages, collecting and presenting all the best information and pictures, for my brother and me initially, and eventually for my kids, his kids, and my grandkids as well.

Another common activity was doing a lot of walking as a replacement for our regular trips to Rec Sports. We also got a new puppy dog, a shorty-legged, long-haired Jack Russell. I also did a lot of photography, especially with my telescopes using a high end DSLR, various filters, and other equipment to cut through the light pollution from our yard and produce nice images with exposures up to 30 seconds in length. I also spent a lot of time working on my collection of French food pictures, which has become quite extensive during all the time I have spent in France while Karen has been doing her study abroad programs. The result is a large group of hundreds of images which are processed, documented, and ready for presentation. People have suggested that I start a website on French food, but I have not taken that step yet.

Doing online bridge also became a common activity for me, and Karen read a whole lot of books during the pandemic.” —**Phil Kelton**

“Mostly I did what I usually do EXCEPT with almost no running around and lunching with friends. I called several former colleagues here in Austin and in other libraries where I’ve worked. It was fun to catch up and to hear what’s going on in their lives. (I’d like to say I Marie Kondoped some closets and the garage and the guest room...but that did not happen!)” —**Peggy Mueller**

“I exercised via on-line classes, walking and swimming. I enjoyed sitting on my backyard deck reading and observing nature, including lots of birds. Neal and I also welcomed back home two young adult daughters (yes, we’re in that group!) Fortunately, they are both good cooks and we reaped some benefits. I watched more movies and Netflix than I ever did in the past, and I revisited my neglected sewing hobby, starting with mask making (of course!)” —**Peggy Rhea**

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF AND ABOUT OTHERS DURING THIS TIME?

“We learned we loved to read and found Kindle a great choice to do so.” —**Carolyn Curtis**

“I learned how much I enjoy a slower pace...taking time to read and work in my yard. But also, how much I appreciate my family and friends. And how grateful I am for the life I have. —**Robin Fradenburgh**

“I learned I do not like being isolated from people. I love people and am very outgoing. Zoom is a means to an end, but I don’t like it. I learned of my inner strength and tenacity because I knew others were in the same boat with me. I had to rely on technology to communicate.” —**Lael Hasty**

“I think the primary things I learned during this time resulted from all of the research and effort in genealogy about my ancestors, where they came from, what they did, and the times they lived in. I also learned a lot about the basics of doing genealogy research in the process. We also learned a lot about dogs as well.” —**Phil Kelton**

“We all missed our in-person visits. And hugs – just being in physical presence with each other.” —**Peggy Mueller**

“I learned that I am actually self-motivated to exercise. I learned that even though I call myself a “cat person”, I can also love a dog, after one of my daughters first fostered, then adopted a sweet senior gal. I learned that my children are resilient, as they have coped well with the disappointment and change the pandemic brought to their post-college but not yet established lives.” —**Peggy Rhea**

ONCE IT IS SAFE TO TRAVEL AGAIN, WHERE DO YOU PLAN TO GO FIRST?

“Glad to have weathered Covid, even made it through a once in a century snow storm. I will enjoy the wildlife in my garden, grateful to make it through another year.” —**Kaye Abikhaled**

“We are going on a Lewis and Clark cruise, then to Washington and Oregon for a family trip to two different resorts...with three generations. Maybe all of us will find something perfect.” —**Carolyn Curtis**

“I already have several trips planned. First to see my mom who lives in Charlottesville, VA whom I haven’t seen since January 2020. It will be my first flight since last March when I went to Disney World before the shutdown. In October, I plan to participate in the RFSAs New England Rails and Trails trip.” —**Robin Fradenburgh**

“Once it is safe to travel, I will rebook my trip to Spain. I need to go there since my first college major was Spanish and I want to see everything in person rather than just looking at pictures in a book!” —**Lael Hasty**

“My first trip will be to southern Illinois for a couple of celebrations and then at long last I will fly to Avon, Connecticut to visit my grandson who moved there last June from Idaho Falls, Idaho.” —**Sharon Justice**

“When it is safe to travel again, going back to France is our highest priority. In the meantime, we have made three trips to Denver since last summer to visit one of our daughters and two of our grandkids.”

—**Phil Kelton**

“I’m going to Pawhuska, Oklahoma to see Ree Drummond (Pioneer Woman)’s empire – The Mercantile and Bakery, The Boarding House, Charlie’s Sweet Shop and P-Town Pizza. I will also pick up a ticket for The Lodge tour where she films her Food Network shows. On the way home I’m going to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Bentonville, Arkansas) and then to Little Rock to visit my cousin, the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum and Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.” —**Peggy Mueller**

“Neal and I plan to visit Glacier National Park in Montana, and also Banff National Park if Canada’s borders are open. A trip for a niece’s wedding will take us to California, where we plan to visit Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, Napa Valley, and San Francisco.” —**Peggy Rhea**

A YEAR FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

A big “thank you” to Sharon Justice for suggesting this article, and to all our members who took the time to reply!

“Taking a look at a new situation / one considers the pros and cons / remembers past experiences / sits back and decides WE CAN DO THAT / tuning to careful planning and positive attitude...”

A poem regarding the new phase in our lives may serve to explain my thoughts.” —**Kaye Abikhaled**

Coronavirus19

House bound since March 13 – am hanging on to memories of Spring 1945, relieved that this time there are no bombs, artillery, nor dive bombers...

feel myself floating to the edge of earth
missing friends and unable to pop in to see them
this is truly an odd time all around

the moon is huge as a promise
we should be happy in anticipation of better things
to come and yet, we are quaking in our shoes

with fear of the worst pandemic
a huge tidal wave in waiting wings of revelation...
how fast it came upon us

and we barely paid attention as in Noah’s time
today’s AI waters lapping at our chins
Red Easter upon us?

Kaye Abikhaled
March 13, 2020

“I am sharing this poem for our RFSAs Spring magazine. I finally decided to write something about the pandemic. Somehow, I just couldn’t do it all last year. Now, in the spring of 2021, I feel I can express what I feel and hope others recognize some of these thoughts. I hope everyone can see that, although we mourn the loss of so many lives, the last line is “we live” and I mean this in a very spiritual and practical way. I hope it ends, for the reader, on a note of hope.”

—**Laraine Lasdon**

A Strange Cocktail

I am not scarred by a great war,
yet feel on the verge of death.
I can feel the sour breath
of the virus on my lips,
shocking because I can
almost touch the scent of
the Japanese Lilies placed
in a cheap plastic glass,
decorated with tiny, blue tinsel stars.

Very simply, a pandemic
is now the theater of our lives.
Like sunrise and sunset,
the curtain goes up and down,
and in the folds of night,
very sick people die.

I feel drunk on depression,
with a dash of optimism.
An exotic cocktail to soften pain,
decorated with a sweet
sticky cherry and a taste
of tart yellow lemons from Spain

Anxiety is a painful presence,
signaling a relationship disintegrating.
A divorce from normalcy is granted
and a new life constructed.
Every moment offers a prediction
of hours that pass, drift away,
storms that come and go,
moods of sadness, joy,
flow through each day.

And in a strange choreography
with mask and syringe,
we, by repetition,
live.

Laraine Kentridge Lasdon
April 2021

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TEN BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

BY SUSAN KESSLER, *RFSA President-Elect 2021-22*

► When I was eight years old, I decided that all the neighborhood kids should form a book club. Kids showed up at my house. There was no plan, other than my self-appointment as president – after all, it was my idea! And that was that. The meeting morphed into a game of softball, and the club dissolved. It seems a lot of book clubs end up dissolving or morphing (“Why not just call it ‘Open Another Bottle of Wine Club?’”). If there’s a magic formula for success of a book group, I don’t know it, but I do know that my current group has only grown stronger since we first got together in 2015 (with no president). Each December, we have a party and by consensus, choose books for the whole next year. We loosely look for a balance between fiction and non-fiction, mixed in with a biography, a young adult title, a classic, and – just because there’s so much to choose from – a book about Texas. We share a list of questions in advance and do try to stay on topic with discussion. And then – we open another bottle of wine!

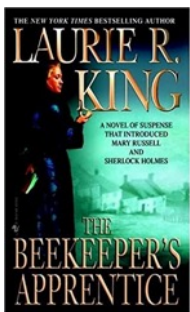
Here’s a sampling of some of the 165 books we’ve enjoyed together:



11-22-63 *Stephen King*

If you had the chance to change the course of history, would you? Would the consequences be what you hoped? Jake Epping, 35, teaches high-school English in Lisbon Falls, Maine. On his deathbed, pal Al divulges a secret portal to 1958 in his diner back pantry, and enlists Jake to prevent the 11/22/1963 Dallas assassination of American President John F. Kennedy. Under the

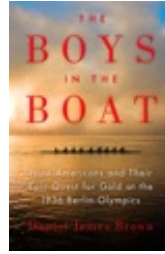
alias George Amberson, our hero joins the cigarette-hazed full-flavored world of Elvis rock’n’roll, Negro discrimination, and freeway gas-guzzlers without seat belts. Will Jake lurk in impoverished immigrant slums beside troubled loner Lee Harvey Oswald, or share small-town friendliness with beautiful high school librarian Sadie Dunhill, the love of his life?



THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE *Laurie R. King*

Long retired, Sherlock Holmes quietly pursues his study of honeybee behavior on the Sussex Downs. He never imagines he would encounter anyone whose intellect matched his own, much less an audacious teenage girl with a penchant for detection. Miss Mary Russell becomes Holmes’ pupil and quickly hones her talent for deduction, disguises and danger. But when an elusive villain

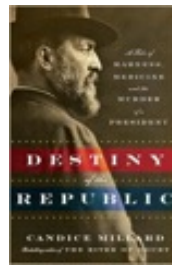
enters the picture, their partnership is put to a real test.



THE BOYS IN THE BOAT: NINE AMERICANS AND THEIR EPIC QUEST FOR GOLD AT THE 1936 BERLIN OLYMPICS

Daniel James Brown

The story of the University of Washington’s 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, finally defeating the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. Drawing on the boys’ own diaries and journals, their photos and memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, ***The Boys in the Boat*** is an irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

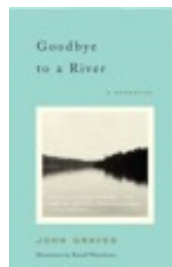


DESTINY OF THE REPUBLIC: A TALE OF MADNESS, MEDICINE AND THE MURDER OF A PRESIDENT

Candice Millard

James A. Garfield was one of the most extraordinary men ever elected president. Born into abject poverty, he rose to become a scholar, a Civil War hero, and a renowned and admired reformist congressman. Nominated for president against his will, he engaged in a fierce battle with the corrupt political establishment. Four months after his inauguration, a deranged office seeker shot Garfield in the back.

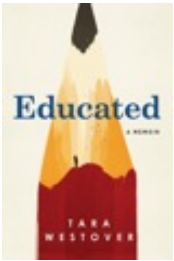
The half-delivered strike shattered the fragile mood of a country so recently fractured by civil war, and left the wounded president as the object of a bitter behind-the-scenes struggle for power—over his administration, the nation’s future, and his medical care. A team of physicians administered shockingly archaic treatments, to disastrous effect. As his condition worsened, Garfield received help: Alexander Graham Bell worked around the clock to invent a new device capable of finding the bullet.



GOODBYE TO A RIVER: A NARRATIVE *John Graves*

In the 1950s, a series of dams was proposed along the Brazos River in north-central Texas, thus changing the surrounding countryside, and the lives of the people whose rugged ancestors had eked out an existence there. ***Goodbye to a River*** is John Graves’ account of his farewell canoe voyage on the Brazos. As he braves rapids and fatigue and the fickle autumn weather, he muses upon old blood feuds of the region and violent skirmishes with native tribes, and retells wild stories of courage and cowardice and deceit that shaped both the river’s people and the land during frontier times and later.

TEN BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING

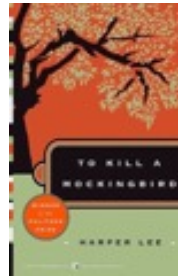


EDUCATED

Tara Westover

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her “head-for-the-hills bag”. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse.

Lacking any formal education, Tara taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to BYU, where she learned for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Harper Lee

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it. **To Kill A Mockingbird** became an instant bestseller when it was first published in 1960.

Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, the story takes readers to the roots of human behavior - to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with over 18 million copies in print and translated into forty languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Harper Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.

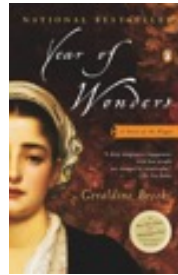


LONG WAY DOWN

Jason Reynolds

Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, a fast, furious, brilliant look at teenage gun violence, told in a sixty second elevator ride – the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who killed his brother. Fifteen-year-old Will, gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, gets on the elevator stoked for revenge. At

each floor, the elevator stops and someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an end...if Will gets off that elevator.



YEAR OF WONDERS: A NOVEL OF THE PLAGUE

Geraldine Brooks

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna’s eyes we follow the story of the fateful year of 1666, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive and grow, a year of catastrophe becomes instead annus mirabilis, a “year of wonders.”



THE THIRTEENTH TALE

Diane Setterfield

Beloved novelist Vida Winter, gravely ill, wants biographer Margaret Lea to recount her life story before it is too late. Margaret is spellbound by Winter’s *Thirteen Tales of Change* but confused that there are only twelve stories; intrigued, she agrees to the request. As she records Miss Winter’s accounts of dark family secrets, she

becomes more deeply immersed in the strange and troubling story. Both women will have to confront their pasts and the weight of family secrets... and the ghosts that haunt them still.

MEMBERSHIP

▶ Although we have not been able to meet in groups since mid-March of last year, RFSA has tried to stay in touch with our members by sharing many opportunities for entertainment and learning in the meantime—all announced by email to our membership. RFSA membership is maintained without a break by paying membership dues, payable once per year or once every three years. We will soon have a lifetime membership option available, as well. Reminder notices are sent to you by email on the month your membership is due.

Keep your membership active so that you receive the RFSA Magazine and have access to group travel options; activities such as bridge, exercise classes, foodies; two annual luncheons and the Holiday Party; and informational sessions about health, finances, and other topics of in-terest. We announce Webinars and other opportunities for learning and look forward to resuming in-person options as soon as it is safe.

Please watch for the dues reminder to maintain your membership and all these benefits. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word about RFSA to your friends who may be thinking about retirement and/or those who are newly retired.

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THE EYES OF TEXAS HISTORY COMMITTEE



ABOVE:

Photo by Bob Childress

BY DR. SHARON H. JUSTICE, *RFSA Board Member-At-Large 2021-22*

► As many of you may recall, President Jay Hartzell announced in the summer of 2020 that “The Eyes of Texas”, our alma mater, would continue to be sung and performed. Shortly thereafter he made the announcement that there would be an Eyes of Texas history committee and the charge to the group was to research the origins and meaning of our alma mater and to suggest ways for the university to move forward with greater inclusion and equity. I was asked to serve on this committee that was composed of 25 diverse faculty members, students, alumni, and historians. I felt privileged to be a member of this prestigious group, but I had been following the reactions of many to the question of whether or not the “Eyes of Texas” should continue to be sung and performed. The media seemed to be everywhere... Twitter, Facebook, print, radio, and television. There seemed to be at least one story/comment per day. Passionate voices were heard on both sides of the issue. I was somewhat anxious.

Chairing the committee was Dr. Richard Reddick, professor in the Higher Education Leadership program and the Associate Dean of Equity and Community Engagement in the College of Education. Knowing that relieved some of my apprehension. Rich had worked in the Dean of Students office as an undergraduate and we had sat across the table from each other as faculty colleagues in later years. I knew him well. He would exert his leadership in a fair and equitable manner. He was also a first-rate historian and a well-respected faculty member. (You may recall he was the speaker at our fall 2020 luncheon and mentioned the establishment of this committee at that time.)

In order to manage a committee of this size, and to provide each of us an opportunity to conduct research and share opinions, we were divided into three small groups, each with a specific charge. My committee was to examine the historical usage of “The Eyes of Texas” as well as its usage in broader cultural events such as film. And by the way, did you know that in 1948 Roy Rogers starred in a film entitled “The Eyes of Texas” and the song is played repeatedly in the movie, “Giant”?

My two co-chairs included Dr. Cherise Smith, chair of African and African Diaspora Studies, whom I had never met, but was looking forward to her expertise and experience. The other co-chair was Jim Nicar whom I had known as a student, and in his former employment as the director of the UT Heritage Society at the Ex-Students’ Association. I knew Jim was a gifted writer and an excellent researcher.

Prior to our first meeting we received one of those big three ring notebooks with an extensive collection of articles and excerpts from books to read as well as numerous other historical documents available in our designated special zoom box. My first thought was this is going to be a lot of reading! And so I began. I felt like I was back in the classroom enrolled in a history class. I was learning so much and still there was more to learn.

We met weekly on Zoom taking only a few breaks during the holidays to discuss our findings, what additional research we needed to pursue and what our research was telling us and of course, we continued reading. Jim Nicar encouraged us to dig deeper while also serving as our cheerleader. We interviewed members of student organizations, former football players, and student leaders. They were forthright in their comments and shared personal stories of their

THE EYES OF TEXAS HISTORY COMMITTEE

experiences with racism on our campus. Shocking and unbelievable! They also suggested recommendations for the committee.

Three sessions were devoted to presentations and conversations with Diane Boddy and Jeanne Klein, the granddaughters of Lester Johnson; Dr. Charles Carson, a musicologist professor here at UT whose field of study is African American popular music and jazz; and Dr. Michael Ray Charles, a professor at the University of Houston who is a contemporary American artist who explores historic African American stereotypes. (You may have seen some of his work in the museum of Modern Art in NYC). For me listening, talking and asking questions of these folks was one of the highlights of our committee work. They helped us look at our research and our findings through different lenses. And yes, once again I would like to enroll in their classes!

We knew that not everyone would agree with our findings, but our research was now complete.

It was time for the writing to begin and we were fortunate to have superb wordsmiths as members of our committee. There was much conversation as we as committee members reviewed our facts and findings and shared our opinions. It was important to us that our report would stand up to the academic standards of the university.

As we said in our report it was an opportunity to ensure that the countless hours of research, dialogue, and deliberation were appropriately understood and memorialized. We understood and expected that reasonable, thoughtful people would view our work and arrive at different conclusions. This is where the conversation must begin.

Two of the primary findings that we discovered have created some controversy: The song was first performed at a minstrel show but was not written for that show and was not written in mocking dialect. We believe that Lewis Johnson and John Sinclair, the creators, wanted this work to premiere at an event that was well attended. As H. W. Brands, historian and committee member stated so eloquently, “There’s nothing whatsoever to indicate that it was intended at all in the direction of Black people. They just weren’t part of the audience.” Another disagreement: Was there a connection to Robert E. Lee? We couldn’t find any primary-source evidence that the song’s signature line was inspired by a similar saying of Lee’s. We also couldn’t find any evidence that Lee himself had said it.

What would we recommend to President Hartzell?

We considered approximately 100 recommendations and we agreed on 40 recommendations for the 40 acres. In the recommendations section of the report, you can read the ideas we proposed that we, as a committee, believed were not only appropriate based on our charge, but important for the administration to consider and to implement. One of them: “Use UT resources to teach our community (and to be a model to others) how to have difficult conversations using faculty experts like the Difficult Dialogues Programs.” Dr. LaToya Smith, vice president of the division of Diversity and Community Engagement will oversee the fostering of uncomfortable conversations.

President Hartzell released our report on March 9 along with videos from some of our committee members and a timeline of milestones beginning in 1903 when “The Eyes of Texas” was sung at a minstrel show organized to raise money for UT’s track team. This was not an institutional use. The timeline concludes in 2021 when The Eyes of Texas History Committee presented its report to the Longhorn Nation for deep understanding and extensive dialogue in March.

This is my personal recollection of serving as a member of this committee and I am proud to have done so. Our work is scholarly and factual. I know a divide may remain as reasonable people may agree to disagree, but what we have produced is framed by facts, and grounded in history. Our recommendations will move us forward—a community of inclusion and equity.

I strongly encourage you to read the entire report and watch the videos at eyesoftexas.utexas.edu.

If you want an enlightened approach to “The Eyes of Texas” issue, listen to the podcast with Drs. Jeremi Suri and Richard Reddick. It does not revisit the historical facts, but discusses the philosophical approach to understanding the meaning of symbols and their evolution over time.

iTunes:

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/this-is-democracy-episode-141-the-eyes-of-texas/id1420520464?i=1000515374564&fbclid=IwAR0Xbc90O2b2LpS4bzFGNKGJFT4CGpHwbv_v_ZiSggL9ntgmXQBRlSVNENPI

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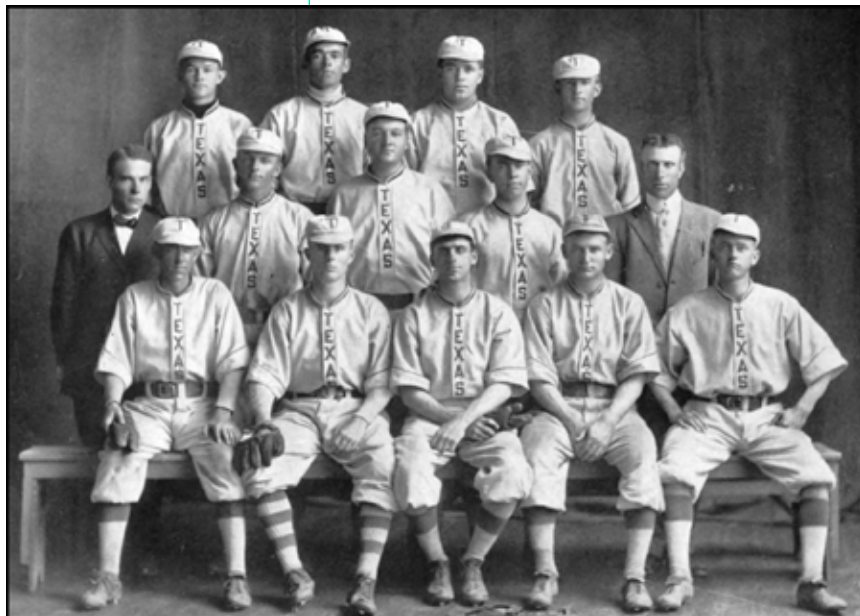
THE 1911 FACULTY VS. SENIOR CLASS BASEBALL GAME

By Jim Nicar



BELOW:

1911 UT baseball team, 1st year coach Billy Disch in middle row, far right.



► “The date for the henceforth-to-be-annual Faculty-Senior game has been set at Thursday, May 18,” announced The Texan student newspaper. The 1911 spring term had only a few weeks to go before final exams, followed by commencement week in early June. “Everybody talk it up,” the Texan continued, “Let’s make this one of our best annual ‘doings.’ It’s going to be a hard, fast contest, and everyone should turn out!”

The idea for a faculty vs senior class baseball contest originated with first-year coach William J. “Billy” Disch, who had organized something similar at his previous coaching post at Saint Edward’s College (now Saint Edward’s University) in South Austin. As many devoted Longhorn fans well know, Disch was UT’s coach for 28 years, won 465 collegiate games, 22 conference titles, and molded the University’s baseball program into a national powerhouse. But in 1911, Disch was a rookie on the Forty Acres, and was looking for ways to be involved on the campus.

The faculty team was loaded with talent and experience. The roster included physics professor Bill Mather, who’d played shortstop for Amherst College, and German professor (and former UT football

coach) Bill Metzenthin, who’d been a center fielder for Columbia University. Dan Penick, a Greek professor, tennis coach, and University alumnus, had earned three baseball letters during his UT undergraduate years. Also on the team was education professor (and former baseball coach) Caswell Ellis, botany professor Frank Heald, philosophy instructor John Keen, education professor Bill Sutton, zoology professor John Patterson, and Alex Krey, a Medieval history instructor who reportedly played “like a big leaguer.” Disch was to play catcher, and worked with the faculty squad for more than a week to get them ready.

The seniors, meanwhile, weren’t allowed to include any members of the baseball team on their roster, and struggled to find comparable athletes who also had time to practice. With the end of the academic year approaching, term projects, research papers, and upcoming final exams were higher priorities. Prospects for the senior class were grim.

Not to worry. Gene Harris had the solution.

~~~~~

Law student Eugene L. Harris hailed from Ysleta, Texas, then a small town just southeast of El Paso. Outgoing and affable, Harris was well-liked and respected by his fellow students, was active in the Students’ Assembly, the Athenaeum Literary Society, and participated on the UT Debate Team. He was editor-in-chief of the Texan newspaper for the 1907-08 academic year, and for four years served as the University’s Head Yell Leader. A highly-prized, elected position, the yell leader was considered to be the caretaker of UT’s college spirit.

Harris, though, also had a mischievous streak, one that often ran afoul of the faculty and caused him to “accept” multiple invitations to appear before the Faculty Discipline committee. A talented voice impersonator, Harris would telephone a newly-hired faculty member, claim to be University President Sidney Mezes, and demand the young professor “be at my house at 8 p.m. tonight to discuss a serious matter.” More than once, Mezes was surprised to find an anxious college instructor at his doorstep, hat in hand, at the appointed time.

In his senior year, Harris kept his head low as he wanted to graduate, but the Faculty vs. Senior Class Baseball Game provided an irresistible opportunity. The underdog seniors needed help to win the game, and Harris knew just how to provide it.

On the morning of the game, Harris took the electric trolley downtown to Graham’s Drug Store and



ABOVE:  
1916 color image of Old Main (scene is same as would have been in 1911)

purchased a gallon of Citrate of Magnesia, a quick and effective laxative for the uninitiated. (Harris would later recall the genuine look of concern on Dr. Graham's face.) At Weilbacher's Confectionary, Harris acquired a bag of sugar and several dozen lemons. Elsewhere, he found two pails, a pair of tin cups, some ice, and proceeded to make a special kind of lemonade with rather serious side effects. To one of the pails, Harris attached an anonymous note: "For the Faculty, from an admiring friend."

The game was to be held at old Clark Field, about where the O'Donnell Building and Gates/Dell Computer Science Complex are today. Harris arrived a few minutes before the first pitch and handed the

pails full of spiked lemonade to a youngster, with instructions to place them next to third base.

It was a warm and sunny afternoon, and a large crowd was on hand to witness the home field senior class take on the faculty. President Mezes and engineering dean Thomas Taylor helped to officiate, and Dr. Mezenthin took the pitcher's mound. Two pails of lemonade, so thoughtfully provided for the faculty waited for those who made it as far as third base.

As expected, the professors scored early. Dr. Ellis, who kept making excuses that he really didn't know how to play, hit a triple, and was the first to sample the refreshments. He scored when Coach Disch, to the





# BEWARE OF LAW STUDENTS BEARING GIFTS

Dr. Mezenthin, alone atop the pitcher’s mound, was the only player left for the faculty team. The game was over prematurely, for no matter how closely lemons, sugar, and Citrate of Magnesia might taste like lemonade, it doesn’t act like lemonade. The senior class promptly declared victory by default.

Thanks to a tip from pharmacist Graham, President Mezes soon uncovered the truth and determined the culprit, and issued an “invitation” for Gene Harris to come to the president’s office Friday morning. Harris arrived to find Mezes alone; much of the Faculty Discipline Committee had played baseball the day before.

Mezes was livid. Harris had violated just about every rule possible, had disrupted the academic work of the University, and had caused members of the faculty extreme discomfort and embarrassment. And Harris was a law student. After an extended and stern lecture, Mezes asked the customary question: “Mr. Harris, what action to you think should be taken?”

Harris panicked, confessed his guilt, and then blurted out that the faculty had already taken all of the action possible or necessary.

The usually staid president stared for a moment, then chuckled, and finally leaned back and roared. He rose, extended his hand, and said that he’d enjoyed their relationship, and thought Harris not as bad a person as his actions might appear. A stunned Harris was ushered out of the office with a final “Good luck!” and graduated a few weeks later.



ABOVE:  
Senior yearbook photo of Gene Harris.

BELOW:  
“Citrate of Magnesia” bottle top

delight of the fans, knocked the ball toward left field for a home run. Dr. Patterson (for whom Patterson Labs are named), surprised everyone with a beautiful slide into home to score in the fourth inning. As the game continued, though, more and more of the faculty found their way to the lemonade, whether or not they’d made it to third base.

The determined seniors fought back, but by the seventh inning stretch, with the score was 11 – 7 in favor of the faculty, Dr. Ellis abruptly left the field without a forwarding address. As the team huddled to discuss his replacement, the entire outfield was discovered missing. The rapid exodus continued until



# 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. Two years ago, 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.

In 2018, 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.

**A donation card is included in this magazine. Make a difference in a student's life this year and send your donation to RFSA for the next group of students receiving an RFSA Scholarship.**

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Texas Exes  
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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

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM  
NOVEMBER 1, 2020 – APRIL 15, 2021

|                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nancy Payne<br><i>In memory of Dr. Robert Mettlen</i>                                                                                                              | Martha Boyd<br><i>In honor of Eleanor Moore</i><br><i>In honor of Carol Barrett</i><br><i>In honor of Clemith Houston</i> |
| Lael Hasty<br><i>In honor of Patsy Read</i><br><i>In honor of Judy Browning</i><br><i>In honor of Nancy Buford</i><br><i>In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Crozier</i> | Martha Boyd<br><i>In memory of Mary Helen Quinn</i><br><i>In memory of Dr. Robert Mettlen</i>                             |
| Mary and James Crook                                                                                                                                               | Carolyn Wylie                                                                                                             |
| Eleanor Moore<br><i>In memory of Judy Amis</i>                                                                                                                     | Virginia Phillips                                                                                                         |
| Patricia Nealon                                                                                                                                                    | Dr. Phil Kelton                                                                                                           |
| Miles Abernathy                                                                                                                                                    | Charles Clark<br><i>In memory of James E. Stockton</i><br><i>In memory of Professor Robert A. DeSimone</i>                |
| Joyce McLendon                                                                                                                                                     | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Morris                                                                                             |
| Dr. Alice Reinarz                                                                                                                                                  | Virginia Phillips<br><i>In honor of Peggy Mueller</i>                                                                     |
| Dr. William Lasher                                                                                                                                                 | Hazel Pipkin                                                                                                              |
| Cynthia and Thomas Barnes III                                                                                                                                      | Peggy Mueller                                                                                                             |
| Sharon Justice                                                                                                                                                     | Peggy Mueller<br><i>In memory of Kryssy Egnor</i>                                                                         |
| Sharon Justice<br><i>In memory of Judy Amis</i><br><i>In memory of Dr. Robert Mettlen</i>                                                                          | Judith Davis                                                                                                              |
| Ruth Rubio<br><i>In memory of Deena Mersky</i>                                                                                                                     | Tany Norwood                                                                                                              |
| Dr. Mary Kay Hemmenway                                                                                                                                             | John Tongate                                                                                                              |
| Dr. James Vick                                                                                                                                                     | Beverly Hamilton                                                                                                          |
| Cora Hilliard<br><i>In honor of Cecil Martinez</i>                                                                                                                 | Alison Wright                                                                                                             |
| Dr. Karrol Kitt                                                                                                                                                    | David Strauss                                                                                                             |
| Nancy Payne                                                                                                                                                        | Donna Bellinghausen                                                                                                       |
| Charles Mullins                                                                                                                                                    | Janis Vanderberg                                                                                                          |
| Patricia Boone                                                                                                                                                     | Cecil Martinez<br><i>In honor of Cora Hilliard</i>                                                                        |
| Robert Lawrence                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                           |

# SCHOLARSHIP FUND

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Christina Blake**

Montego Bay, Jamaica  
Theatre

**Garrett Gu**

Allen, Texas / Shanghai, China  
CS + Math

**Felipe Gonzalez Gutierrez**

Waxahachie, Texas  
Biology Honors BSA

**Marco A. Hernandez**

Laredo, Texas  
Public Relations

**Merhdad Heydari**

Austin, Texas  
Neuroscience

**Robert Nathaniel Hill****Jiaxin Huang****Harrison Q. Jin**

The Woodlands, Texas  
Computational Engineering

**Sung Hoon Jung**

Austin, Texas  
Biomedical Engineering

**Preethi Keerthipati**

Cedar Park, Texas  
Biology BSA and certificate in  
Biomimicry in Textiles

**Phong Hoang Dinh Le**

Burleson, Texas  
Women and Gender Studies and  
Sociology

**Bendy Medawar**

Pflugerville, Texas  
Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Ngoc H. Nguyen**

Waco, Texas  
Neuroscience

**Nhi T. Nguyen**

Cypress, Texas  
Nursing  
Awarded Scholarship for Fall 2020

**Angela Majong Qin****Lilibeth Ramirez**

Dallas, Texas  
Bilingual/Bicultural Education

**Keion Rasti**

Houston, Texas  
Psychology and History

**Chloe Rice**

Spring, Texas  
MIS

**Yiheng Su**

Plano, Texas  
Computer Science

**Allen Wen**

Seabrook, Texas  
Physics, Math





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# IN MEMORIAM

This column honors the memory of retired University of Texas at Austin faculty and staff and retired University of Texas System staff whose deaths have been made known to us between November 15, 2020 and April 30, 2021. 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.

**Leoda Anderson, 105**

*Administrative Assistant to  
Chair of Classics Department  
February 10, 2021*

**Caroline Boales Bass, 83**

*Administrative Assistant to the  
Dean, College of Communication  
May 22, 2020*

**Ronald S. Beck, 76**

*Senior Construction Inspector  
October 25, 2019*

**Betty Bennie, 97**

*Widow of William Bennie,  
Curriculum & Instruction  
March 4, 2021*

**Marion Wier Rich DeFord, 93**

*Secretary, Biomedical  
Engineering Department  
January 2, 2021*

**Robert DeSimone, 83**

*Professor Emeritus, Butler School  
of Music; Sarah & Ernest Butler  
Professorship in Opera  
January 12, 2021*

**Carol Whitcraft Fredericks, 93**

*Governor's Executive Development  
Program, LBJ School of Public Affairs  
February 28, 2021*

**George Garcia III, 66**

*Physical Plant Maintenance Department  
January 14, 2021*

**Woodie Richard Grisham, 97**

*Operations Officer, UT  
Investments and Trusts  
February 11, 2020*

**Lucy Whiteside Hanks, 95**

*Professor of Textiles  
April 7, 2021*

**Roy Duane Harris, 87**

*Professor Emeritus, M/M William  
F. Wright, Jr. Centennial Professor  
for Management of Innovative  
Technology; Chair of Management  
Department, College of Business  
February 4, 2021*

**Santiago J. Hernandez**

*Library Assistant III,  
Acquisitions, UT Libraries  
January 12, 2021*

**Michael Eugene Hunter, 66**

*Maintenance, Transportation  
January 17, 2021*

**Robert E. Icenhauer-Ramirez, 65**

*History Department  
March 5, 2021*

**Raymond Francis Xavier**

**James, Jr., 88**  
*Director, Parking and Traffic  
April 11, 2021*

**Coleman A. Jennings, 86**

*Professor Emeritus, Department  
of Theatre and Dance; Jesse H.  
Jones Professorship in Fine Arts  
October 28, 2020*

**Sylvia B. Lester, 102**

*Widow of William Lester, Professor  
Emeritus, Art Department  
March 21, 2018*

**Raymond C. Loehr, 89**

*Hussein M. Alharthy Centennial Chair in  
Civil Engineering, Professor Emeritus  
April 15, 2021*

**Teresa Lozano Long, 92**

*Philanthropist; UT System  
Santa Rita Award Recipient  
March 21, 2021*

# IN MEMORIAM

**Lawrence Riedling Mack, 88**

*Aerospace Engineering*  
December 22, 2020

**M. Gwyn Morgan, 83**

*Professor Emeritus,  
Classics and History*  
September 7, 2020

**Constance (Connie) Owens, 74**

*Administrative Assistant, Office  
of General Counsel, UT System*  
July 15, 2020

**Doug Paine, 85**

*Library Assistant III, Circulation  
Desk, Undergraduate Library*  
February 12, 2021

**Robert S. Pearlman, 73**

*Coulter R. Sublett Chair in  
Pharmacy, Professor Emeritus*  
April 8, 2021

**Patsy Reid, 78**

*Office of General Counsel,  
Legal Librarian*  
January 3, 2020

**Geraldine Dolores Ross, 89**

*Administrative Assistant,  
Mexican Studies, Archaeology &  
LBJ School of Public Affairs*  
March 20, 2021

**Irwin Harold Silberberg, 95**

*Asst. Director of the Texas Petroleum  
Research Committee, Petroleum  
Engineering Department*  
March 15, 2021

**Ronald B. Stalder, 65**

*UT Police Department; Security  
at AT&T Conference Center*  
December 9, 2019

**James Evan Stockton, 89**

*Project Manager, Applied Research Lab;  
President's Award for Excellence 1991*  
January 7, 2021

**Mitchell Sudolsky, 69**

*Clinical Professor, Graduate  
School of Social Work*  
March 31, 2021

**Janee Marie Trybyszewski, 96**

*Executive Assistant,  
Physics Department*  
March 3, 2021

**Margaret Marshall Walker, 95**

*Widow of Ernest Walker, Lawrence  
D. Gale Chair and Professor  
Emeritus, Finance Department*  
December 21, 2020

**William F. Wallace, Jr., 90**

*Personnel Director; Payroll Office*  
September 17, 2020

**Patsy (Pat) Welch, 85**

*Wife of A.J. Welch,  
Biomedical Engineering*  
June 18, 2019

**Ruby Irene Bergherr White, 98**

*Widow of Ralph White, Professor  
in Art Department*  
December 28, 2020

## **RFSA**

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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 [tanynorwood@utexas.edu](mailto:tanynorwood@utexas.edu) or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes, P.O. Box 7278, Austin, TX 78713

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