

# RFSA MAGAZINE

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

## ANNUAL REPORT

*pg. 6*

## THE GREAT UT TRIVIA QUIZ

*pg. 14*

## RFSA VISITS NEW ENGLAND

*pg. 25*

FALL/WINTER 2021  
[SITES.UTEXAS.EDU/RFSA](https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa)



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



▶ Hello, RFSAC members!

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. For almost two years, we have all been dealing with tremendous change and challenge, with health recommendations changing frequently and our routine work, school, volunteer, and social

activities upended. As I write this, I am hoping that we are beginning to see the light at the end of the covid tunnel.

However, we should also all be proud of the way RFSAC was able to pivot and adapt to new ways of holding activities. Thank you to everyone who was willing to try TEAMS and Zoom and other technologies that made virtual gatherings possible. I particularly want to thank the Texas Exes staff for their patience in teaching us those new skills and how to adapt. The last year has also prompted the Exes to invest in new technology that will allow us to have hybrid gatherings, bringing together in-person and remote participants. When that equipment is installed, it will allow our members to join in even while they might be out of town or feeling a little under-the-weather. That is a silver lining that will benefit our organization long into the future.

We are also looking at some possible changes in RFSAC operations:

- An ad hoc committee is reviewing our member directory to consider having an online version, which would allow us to provide more up-to-date member information. I hope you participated in the survey this group sent out earlier this fall;
- We are updating our constitution and creating a set of bylaws to allow us to codify routine operational changes in a more appropriate way; and
- For the first time we have joined a national organization, the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). We hope to learn from other schools' retiree organizations as well as share our best practices with them.

We will keep everyone in the loop on these and other RFSAC developments.

Finally, I want to thank Carol Barrett for being the heart and soul of our organization and congratulate her for 48 years at the Ex-Students' Association, and 19 years as RFSAC Advisor! I can't imagine RFSAC without Carol and the wonderful team at the Exes.

Let me know of any ideas or suggestions for RFSAC, I'd love to hear from you!

—TANY NORWOOD, *President, 2021-22*

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# 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. We have lost two sponsors this year. The owner of Mr. Appliance, Charlie Goff, has informed us that he is retiring and has sold his business, and the owner of Austin Hearing, Dr. Margaret Hutchison, does not feel that their ad is attracting the necessary clientele to offset the cost of the ad. We are very appreciative of their support over the years and wish them well.

Four of our sponsors 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, 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, Fast Park & Relax, and we welcome our newest sponsor, Mann Eye Institute, founded by Dr. Mike Mann in Humble, Texas in 1977. 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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# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY FOR RFSA MAGAZINE

FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

## 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, 2020-21:** 515

### Events:

*(all RFSA in-person events cancelled in mid-March 2020 through Spring 2021)*

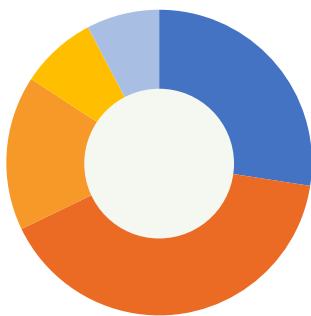
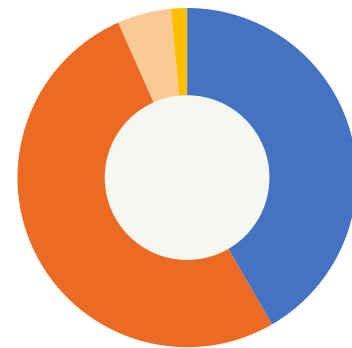
- Fall Luncheon, Zoom Meeting, 91 participants
- Spring Luncheon, Zoom meeting, 62 participants
- Holiday Social, cancelled
- Interest Group Meetings, only the Health Interest Group met, 6 Zoom meetings, 120-150 participants

### Service Projects:

- Hearts of Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign: limited to payroll deduction
- Orange Santa: Assisted 1,080 children in 464 families (focused on \$35 gift cards)
- Presentations at “Retiring from UT” seminars: 6 virtual sessions
- Presentations at Faculty Retirement Seminars: 1 virtual presentation/panel
- Participation in Health & Wellness Expo: 1 virtual session
- 40 for Forty: 11 RFSA members gave a total of \$1,200 to the RFSA Scholarship Fund
- UT Remembers: held virtually; (RFSA members were not able to gather to prepare ribbons and bookmark tassels)

*This year was difficult for all of us as we learned to live with the Coronavirus pandemic. Unable to gather for programs and travel, as programming facilities and travel programs shut down, we sought alternative ways to move forward with technology-supported but limited programming. Our goal was to find new ways to learn and still be together, just not in person. The Health Interest Group was most successful in continuing programming via Zoom, at no cost, and no need to leave our homes. That allowed RFSA to be of continued services as well as expanding access to our health programs to the members.*

*– Corky Hilliard, Past President, 2020-21*



**EXPENSES**  
\$12,374

- SCHOLARSHIP MATCH**  
\$5,000 40%
- MAGAZINES**  
\$3,395 27%
- TEXAS CONNECT AD**  
\$2,025 16%
- TRANSFER TO RESERVE FUNDS**  
\$1,000 8%
- OTHER OPERATING COSTS**  
\$954 8%

**INCOME**  
\$19,541

- BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS**  
\$10,100 52%
- DUES**  
\$8,141 42%
- MCKETTA FOUNDATION**  
\$1,000 5%
- OTHER DONATIONS**  
\$300 1%

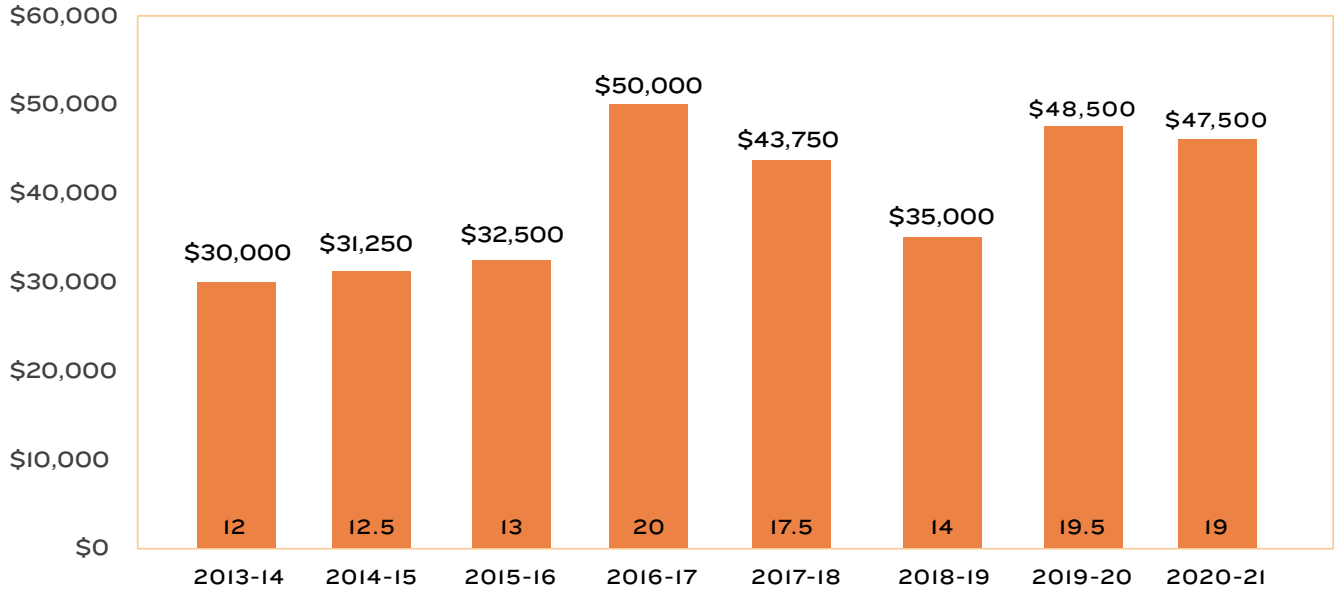
# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY FOR RFSA MAGAZINE

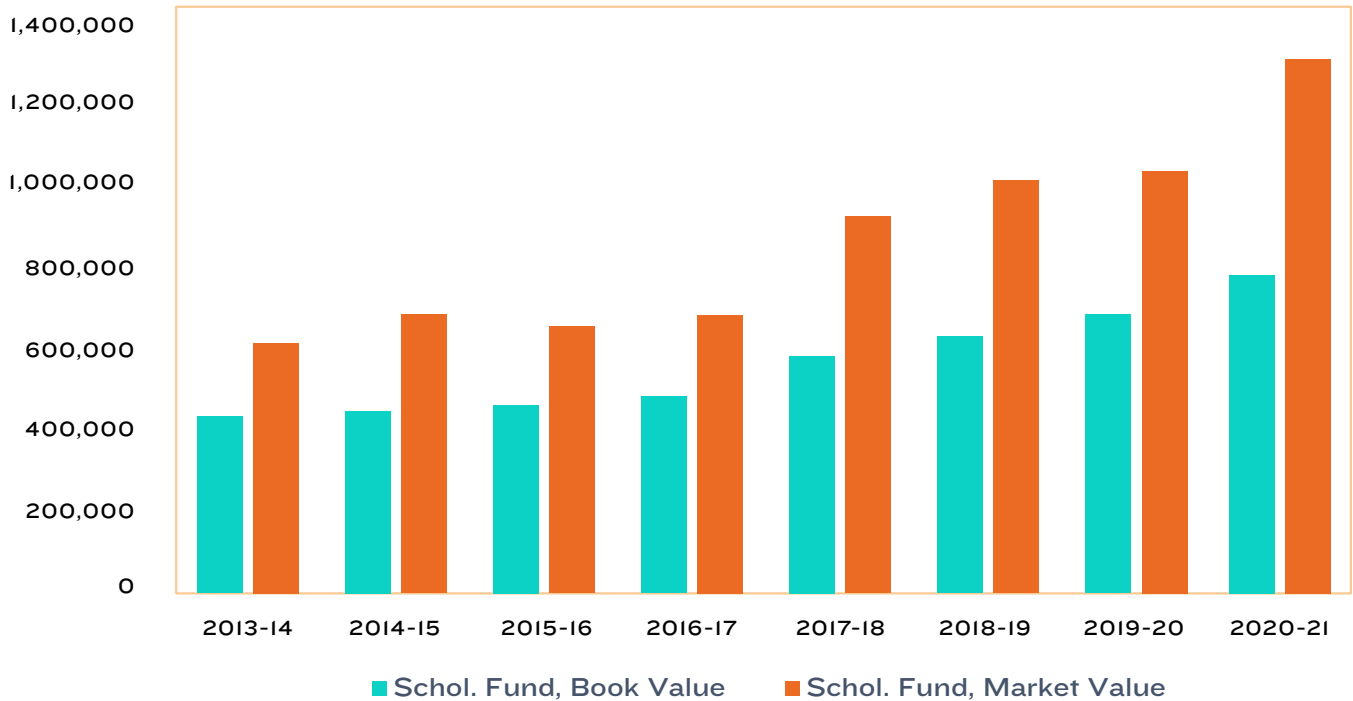
FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 – AUGUST 31, 2021

## ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TOTAL & NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

\$2,500 Individual Award



## SCHOLARSHIP FUND VALUE



# INTEREST GROUPS

## ARTS AND CULTURE

► I am honored to join our Association's newly formed Arts and Culture Interest Group as Chair. The new name allows us all to participate in the rich opportunities UT offers us which will now include Fine Arts, music, theater, lectures and other events like Poetry readings, Landmarks tours and Architecture and Design innovations UT faculty and staff present. During the past few months and due to our Austin Phase 5 Covid status we reverted to a process of sending out a few interesting events that members could do on their own. The Butler School of Music, the Blanton and HRC re-opening were featured. In one or two cases we featured off-campus events where retired faculty or other UT alums had involvement, such as Travis Heights Artwalk. The way we get our information is through the leadership in the various colleges who send out early notices so we can post these in emails for our members.

Several events and opportunities were offered in the fall semester but too late to discuss in this issue.

The Blanton will be opening two new major exhibitions plus The Paper Vault show of the works on paper by Helen Frankenthaler and other Abs. Expressionists and I hope to host in-person tours. The HRC is working on the "Women behind James Joyce" show and I am in training for this – recommended readings will be posted. We hope to feature Landmarks, Texas Performing Arts and more from the Butler school of Music – some of these will be self-directed by members. We are waiting to see if the Blanton will host their Holiday Singers this year.

Also, I hope to have an in person "art and culture circle" tea for anyone who is interested in joining our Arts circle Interest group to help plan and propose ideas. If interested in our in-person Circle event concept (at my house on Valburn – large spaces), let me know as we understand there is still some uncertainty as to what to attend and not attend. I am always ready to visit on a coffee date, phone call or online for a chat. Ideas and suggestions welcome and we look forward to a rich Fall Semester.

*Laraine Kentridge Lasdon, Arts and Culture Chair*

Contact me: 512-784-3657 or [larainelasdon@gmail.com](mailto:larainelasdon@gmail.com)

## BRIDGE

► The Bridge Group has not played as a group since March 2020, but we did have a lesson on how to use on-line bridge and a few members have been playing on-line.

We have not set a date to return to in-person meetings. Our usual meeting time has been the first Monday of the month (unless it falls on a holiday) at 1:00.

For further information, contact Mary Kay Hemenway at [mkhemenway@utexas.edu](mailto:mkhemenway@utexas.edu).

## EXERCISE

### ► **Thank you, Carolyn Wylie, for 16 years of leadership!**

I joined the exercise group in the fall of 2005, soon after my retirement from UT Press. At that time the group chair was Vic Appel; he asked me to assist him, and I began keeping the list of members (about thirteen at the time) and helping them get parking permits. I became co-chair in 2009 when Vic began having serious health problems and was promoted to chair in 2010 when Vic could not participate.

Class Instructors were generously provided by the Recreational Sports Department, which we were all required to join, but at a reduced rate. Over the years we had a number of excellent instructors, including Helen Scaffa, Sandy Erickson and Linda Brown.

During the years from 2005 to 2020, we met twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, at the Rec Sports Center or at Gregory Gym. Membership varied; I believe we peaked at twenty-three. Several factors beyond our control began affecting our membership numbers. UT provided free parking until a few years ago which caused our numbers to fall sharply. Also, the introduction of the Silver Sneakers program caused class numbers to fall even more, as Silver Sneakers was more convenient for people who did not live near campus. By March 2020, there were fewer than ten of us even on a good day, but we kept hoping to recruit new members. Most recently, we learned that Recreational Sports could no longer provide our instructors. With the decreases to our membership numbers due to changes at UT, plus the pandemic, this wonderful class can no longer be sustained in its present form.

The benefits of the group have included more than just the exercise—over the years we became friends, and this gave us an extra incentive to show up even on mornings when we didn't feel all that energetic.

We will miss the class; I hope we will continue to meet as friends from time to time, and I hope we will all find other venues for exercising (though so far, I'm not setting any kind of example myself).

Thank you to RFSA for forming this group and supporting it for all these years.

Carolyn Wylie, most recent Exercise Group chairperson



# INTEREST GROUPS

## FOODIES

▶ The Foodie Group continues to remain on hiatus, as of the writing of this article. Emails were sent around in early September; the general consensus was that we should continue to wait. I am hopeful and expecting to start getting together at restaurants starting in January. As long as Austin continues to hold and move into lower stages (Stage 2, Stage 1), this should be a good plan. It will also be a good way to start off 2022.

Some people have approached me about being added to the Foodie Group email list, I am adding them. If you want to be added, please email me at: [rjlawrence1031@gmail.com](mailto:rjlawrence1031@gmail.com)

## HEALTH

▶ Two programs were offered by the RFSA Health Interest Group for members this Fall 2021.

The September 27, 2021, seminar was titled Post-COVID-19: The Long Haul of the Pandemic presented by UT Health Austin Medical Director W. Michael Brode (MD) and Research Director Esther Melamed (MD, PhD). Our presenters explained that Covid-19 is a never-seen-before virus that is a multisystem disease found in the small blood vessels of the body. New information continues to be learned about the virus, including the repercussions of the initial illness. There are various names for Covid-19 long haulers, but no definition of this Covid-19 condition. A good article "The Struggle to Define Long Covid" in The New Yorker, September 20, 2021 is recommended.

To view the entire YouTube recording of this seminar, go to <https://youtu.be/o-xApfL58n8>.

The October 25, 2021, seminar titled General Brain Health and Behavioral Interventions for Dementia and Caregivers was presented by Alyssa Aguirre, MSW, LCSW-S and Anna Finger, LCSW from the Mulva Clinic for the Neurosciences Comprehensive Memory Center. The Dell model approach is to "rethink" dementia diagnosis and care. It includes complex care and family care partners are included in the team approach. It is on-site care, and they focus on the total environmental system (social, family, surroundings, etc.). It is important to distinguish between dementia and Alzheimer's (4 types). Over 800 patients have received Office Evaluations. The seminar concluded with a review of caregiver stress.

To view the entire YouTube recording of this seminar, go to <https://youtu.be/MAf2QCy3zns>.

Linda Millstone & Karrol Kitt  
Co-Chairs of Health Interest Group

## RFSA SPEAKER SERIES

▶ The RFSA Speaker Series was created several years ago to replace the Discussion and Finance/Investment interest groups to provide a more flexible and generalized speaker series for RFSA. Alice Reinarz, Phil Kelton, and Don Davis lead the new speaker series, which unfortunately had to suspend operation once the pandemic began.

The RFSA Speaker Series includes three subgroups - Finance/Investment, Interdisciplinary Topics, and Discussion. We have been eager to resume our speaker series meetings but have not been able to do so until the Howson Branch Library meeting room is again available to reserve for our meetings. As of this writing, the meeting room is still not open.

Initial plans for the Finance/Investment group will focus on asking several of our favorite previous speakers to meet with us again, such as Carl Stuart. In addition, we plan to have a meeting on estate planning in 2022 since we have not covered this topic in several years. We also plan to have a meeting on taxes since significant changes in this area are likely for 2022. We are also happy to consider other topics or specific speaker requests from the RFSA membership.

The Interdisciplinary Topics group will be arranging speakers to utilize various perspectives in addressing issues that affect RFSA members. Plans include stresses of caregiving, how to communicate with Millennials and recognizing and addressing Agism in conversations with medical and other professionals.

The Discussion section is planning a speaker from the group Braver Angels, formerly called Better Angels. Their representatives help all people engage in civil discourse with others. In particular, they have suggestions for addressing topics, inflammatory in many families and groups, across the current polarized political divide.

For more information, contact organizers:

Alice Reinarz ([areinarz@tamu.edu](mailto:areinarz@tamu.edu))  
Don Davis ([dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu](mailto:dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu)) and  
Phil Kelton ([pwkelton@gmail.com](mailto:pwkelton@gmail.com))

# INTEREST GROUPS

## TRAVEL

▶ The RFSA Travel Committee organizes and facilitates travel for RFSA members and friends 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. The camaraderie, learning and discovering new places are all bonuses. Due to the pandemic, we will focus on trips within the US during 2021-2022. The RFSA Co-chairs are Sybil and Keith Momii. We work closely with an excellent travel agent, Lori Threatt, of Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants.

Our New England Rails and Trails trip was postponed from 2020 to October 9-16, 2021. Karen and John Harrison were the Trip Leaders on this exciting tour.

From May 14-22, 2022, we travel to Southwest Texas and New Mexico, featuring Big Bend National Park and MacDonald Observatory. Additional stops include Carlsbad Caverns National Park and White Sands National Monument. This custom tour is designed by Sun Tours and Lori Threatt at Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants. Sybil and Keith Momii are the Trip Leaders.

The second 2022 trip is a Mississippi River Cruise from New Orleans to Memphis over 7 nights/8 days, starting October 23, 2022. The vessel is the modern American Jazz from the American Cruise Lines. More information will be available soon. Sybil and Keith Momii are the Trip Leaders.

For more detailed trip information, please contact them at [sybil.momii@gmail.com](mailto:sybil.momii@gmail.com) or [keith.momii@gmail.com](mailto:keith.momii@gmail.com)



ABOVE:  
Cave in Big Bend National Park

BELOW:  
The American Jazz,  
American Cruise Lines



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**John Kormendy**  
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# RFSA MAKES INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

► Last summer, the RFSA Board voted to join a multi-national organization – The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) – and to send President **Tany Norwood** and President-Elect **Susan Kessler** to its annual conference. The three-day virtual conference was held in October. Here are some of Tany's and Susan's reflections.

## WHAT IS AROHE?

AROHE, founded in 2002, supports all phases of faculty/staff retirement through a dynamic member network that links retired faculty/staff associations, retiree and emeriti centers, and campus offices that engage retirees such as human resources, academic affairs, alumni, and advancement/development.

The annual conference provides an opportunity for peer organizations to share ideas and help shape an innovative future for university faculty and staff beyond retirement. In addition to the conference, AROHE's website (<https://www.arohe.org/>) offers plenty of resources and tools for its members. They host idea exchange Webinars, discussion forums, and AROHE Briefs covering such topics as programming, recruitment, organization, engagement, and more.

The 250 attendees at the virtual October conference represented a wide range geographically and by size and scope, from very small schools to universities similar to ours (UCLA, Michigan State UC Berkeley, Maryland, and many others). More than fifty speakers, coordinators, and tech support folks orchestrated an impressive online experience.

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE?

We didn't know what we didn't know! First, we learned that we are not alone. RFSA has many peer organizations, and we are excited to share with and learn from them. The AROHE resources are a treasure trove of innovative ideas and advice.

## HOW ARE OTHER GROUPS ORGANIZED?

There is no formula for how retirement groups are structured. Some are only for faculty, or for faculty and staff separately. Some have entire Emeriti Centers with full staffs and robust programming. Others, like us, have the staff of a campus office to support them. Some are official departments of their universities.

## HOW DO OTHER GROUPS RECRUIT MEMBERS?

The challenges of identifying, recruiting, and recognizing new retirees is a common theme for all the organizations. We gleaned some potentially good ideas that will be shared with RFSA's membership committee.

## WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES/PROGRAMS DO OTHER GROUPS PROVIDE?

It was interesting to learn about various programming directions. Some

emphasize community service, such as mentoring at-risk students in the community. Others have robust speaker programs. A few talked about social responsibility and environmental issues. There are advocacy programs to increase awareness to the entire campus and community about issues related to aging. As aging and ageism were a recurring theme in the conference, several responded with examples of ways to enrich the lives of aging retirees (technology, health and wellness, exercise). All seem to include social events for their members.

## HOW DOES RFSA COMPARE WITH OTHERS?

We felt good about RFSA's level of activity, involvement, programming, and services – and we are excited to know there are peer institutions whose successes we can draw on to enhance our own direction for University of Texas retirees. We didn't hear a lot about organizations that give scholarships to university students.

## WHAT SURPRISED YOU?

We were happily surprised by the depth and breadth of information presented at the conference, and by the array of resources that seem not only willing, but eager to share their successes.

## ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC NUGGETS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH READERS?

We are still sifting through our many pages of notes, but here are a few that we highlighted:

- Much of what we heard provided new perspectives on things we already are doing. For instance, we heard some good suggestions about how to help ease the transition for potential retirees. (See Emory's Emeritus College's Lunch Colloquium Program for potential retirees.)
- We heard some good ideas about recognizing new retirees and ongoing recognition of all retirees by various campus entities.
- A common thread throughout the conference was the fact that during and since the pandemic, everyone has had to do old things in new ways, or to do new things. Many new ideas emerged as a result of the pandemic, but are worthy to continue.
- A consortium of travel programs under AROHE's umbrella is worth exploring.
- The conference triggered thoughts about new ways for RFSA to engage with several UT entities (HR, President's Office, department chairs, Schools of Social Work, Nursing, and Dell Medical).

At the end of the three days, Tany and Susan agreed that the investment of their time and of RFSA's funding was very worthwhile and they recommend continuing RFSA's membership and participation in AROHE.

# RFSA HOLIDAY PARTY

► RFSA was able to hold its annual holiday party in person again this year! It was one of those beautiful Texas December days, and sun poured in through the two-storied glass walls of the Thompson Conference Center. The room was beautifully decorated for the holidays, and the buffet had plenty of delicious appetizers, sliders and desserts.

Back by popular demand were the Tinsel Singers, who entertained us in 2019. The a capella quartet sang holiday carols, and this year invited our members to join in. We have a lot of very talented singers!

RFSA first started collecting donations for Orange Santa at our holiday party in 2017, and we have

continued that tradition every year. This year, Orange Santa requested gift-cards only, with a goal of providing a \$40 gift card for every child who qualifies. We collected over \$800 in donations during our party, and many more members donated to Orange Santa online. This is one way that RFSA gives back generously to UT. I am honored to be part of this group.

The last two years have given many of us a break from our routines, whether we wanted it or not. It has also given us a wonderful new appreciation of the people and activities that make our lives meaningful. This year's holiday party was a reminder of the joy we find when we share our time with friends. May this joy continue into our new year and far beyond!

LEFT TO RIGHT:

Thank you, Carol & Patricia!

Enjoying being together again.

Don Zrudsky & Dephanie Cates

Joyce Harris & Vicki McKain

Cecil Martinez & Mary Kay Hemenway

Corky Hilliard, Tany Norwood & Eleanor Moore



# THE GREAT UT TRIVIA QUIZ

## Part 1

Get out your Blue Books and number two pencils: it's time for the RFSA UT Quiz! How well do you know the University of Texas, its history, traditions, and architecture? Take the quiz and find out.

Answers with explanations are found on the RFSA website: <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>

1. Who was the first live mascot of the University of Texas?
  - a. Flipper
  - b. Bevo
  - c. Pig
  - d. Mr. Ed
  
2. Today's Battle Hall opened in 1911 as the University's first library building. What famous library did architect Cass Gilbert use for inspiration?
  - a. The Library of Congress
  - b. The Boston Public Library
  - c. The Vatican Library
  - d. The Library of Alexandria
  
3. During World War II, about 1,000 UT women students considered it their "patriotic duty" to participate in this program, headquartered at the Texas Union.
  - a. First Aid Classes
  - b. Firearms Instruction
  - c. Dating Service
  - d. Survival Training
  
4. What was the best-known UT student organization for the spring 1974 semester?
  - a. The UT Streaking Team
  - b. The Association of Streaking Students (A.S.S.)
  - c. The Longhorn Streakers
  - d. Streakers 'r' Us
  
5. Which University structure once had its own zip code?
  - a. Darrell K Royal – Texas Memorial Stadium
  - b. Etter-Harbin Alumni Center
  - c. Perry-Castaneda Library
  - d. Jester Center
  
6. The University's first athletic field was named for James Clark, who was UT's initial:
  - a. Librarian
  - b. Registrar
  - c. Secretary to the Faculty
  - d. Groundskeeper
  
7. Which structure is the tallest?
  - a. The UT Tower
  - b. The Texas Capitol
  - c. The United States Capitol
  - d. The Statue of Liberty
  
8. What was the average faculty salary when the University opened in 1883?
  - a. \$1,000 per year
  - b. \$2,500
  - c. \$5,000
  - d. \$10,000

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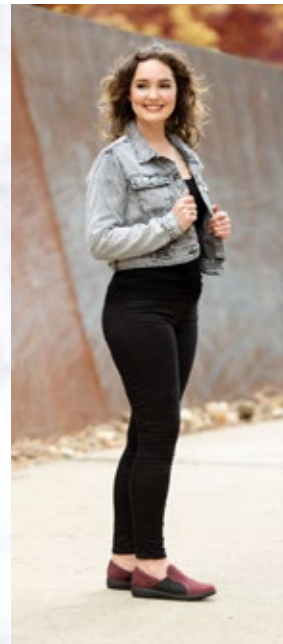
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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## SUSANA ALEMÁN

### WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

My hometown is Falfurrias, Texas, “Home of the Fightin’ Jerseys,” (named for the beautiful dairy cow) about 250 miles directly south of Austin and 80 miles north of the border. “Fal”, as we affectionately call my hometown, is in Brooks County, one county north of the border counties, the Rio Grande Valley (RGV).

I’m teased that I’m not from the Valley, because Fal isn’t in the Valley. That is true but I’m a Valley girl since I was born in Edinburg, deep in the RGV. We moved to Fal when I was eight years old. In 1962, the Valley suffered a downturn in the economy due to a major freeze and my parents decided to move to Fal, my father’s hometown.

We claimed that Falfurrias was our own Mayberry. Everyone knew everyone and we didn’t have to lock our car or house doors. While the people in Brooks County were very poor the school district had excellent funding from the oil company taxes. The result was that, while I was growing up, the schools were exemplary.

### FAMILY

I have a small immediate family, one sister and brother-in-law, one niece, and two great nieces. Lots of females, and we all live in the Austin area. By the way, the doctor had recommended against my mother having a second child. She didn’t listen, and I was the baby of the family.

There were advantages to having an older sister. When Mom was teaching her how to sew, I wanted to learn too, but Mom said that I was too young to sew. She must have gotten tired of my begging because she finally gave in and taught me when I was nine. By fifth grade, I made all my school dresses. We couldn’t wear pants to school in those days.

When my sister came to UT in 1969, I knew that I too would come to UT. That was during the thirty-football game victory streak and national championship year. How could I not bleed burnt orange?

My mother graduated from high school in 1934 and was determined to graduate from college. My grandfather gave her permission to go to college but couldn’t provide any financial assistance. Mom would work for an extended period of time, save her money, and attend college for a short period. It took her 15 years, but Mom earned her degree in 1949 and retired



after teaching 38 years.

My father came from a large family and never attended school, but an uncle had taught him how to read. Mom agreed to marry him on the condition that he get his GED, which he did. It’s unfortunate that Daddy didn’t have the opportunity to attend college. He would have been an excellent accountant or some professional who used lots of mathematics. He would work complex mathematical problems in his head. My parents are both deceased, but they live on in us. Mom was an excellent model of strength and perseverance, and Daddy was a constant source of encouragement to his girls. I never heard him make a sexist remark or joke. I recall one time that he pointed out an article in the newspaper of a woman astronaut. He wanted me to read it and said that I could become whatever I wanted.

### CAREER

From age 5 I wanted to be a medical doctor. Perhaps it was all the fun I was having in high school activities, but my interest changed to education. I wanted to teach for a while and then pursue a move into educational administration or law. I graduated from UT and started in the education field by working for two and a half years in Austin ISD in Title VII Parental Involvement, Research & Evaluation, and teaching in a middle school. That was not my preferred grade level.

Fortunately, an opportunity arose to return to my alma mater in Falfurrias for four years and teach

### ABOVE:

Dean Aleman picking sunflowers for the Law School’s Sunflower Ceremony, where each graduate is pinned with a sunflower and reminded that just like the sunflower turns its face toward the sun, the lawyer turns their face toward the light of justice.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## SUSANA ALEMÁN

civics, seniors, and direct student activities. I keep in touch with many of those students, with many being grandparents now. In 1981, it was time to continue my studies in law school at UT. I somehow wanted to combine law and education. Practicing school law was the path that I had thought of pursuing and clerked at TEA my third year. Around the same time, the Law School's Assistant Dean for Student Affairs announced that he was retiring in the summer. Talk about being at the right place at the right time. About two weeks after graduation, I was hired and remained in that position until retirement, twenty-one and a half years later.

My duties included supervising records, registration, student organizations, exams, Honor Code, academic counseling, scholastic probation, discipline, bar certification, First Year Barbeques, Parents' Weekend, transfer students, graduation certification, the Sunflower Ceremony, and whatever else the Dean assigned. The Sunflower Ceremony was our graduation event and involved pinning a sunflower on each graduate, a tradition over a hundred years old. In keeping with the tradition, it was my responsibility to pick the wild sunflowers. My parents urged us to get as much education as possible so that we wouldn't have to work in the fields. So, I got my law degree and picked sunflowers. I loved it! I was truly blessed to have held this position. I worked with incredibly brilliant students and professors.

While in law school, I was a government teaching assistant at Austin Community College and had been told that once I graduated, I could teach. I taught Texas and American Government for 20 years. Throughout my career, I worked or taught at all levels, from Pre-K through professional school.

### HOW MY TIME IS SPENT

When I retired in 2006, I had planned to do "nothing" for a year and then go back to work somewhere. My father got sick in 2007, and I stayed with him in Falfurrias for several months. It was a relief to be with him when needed and not worry about missing work.

I did have a couple of part-time jobs but not for a long period of time. One was tutoring in math in Spanish to 5th graders at Allan Elementary, which coincidentally was the junior high where I'd taught in the 1970s. This was an interesting experience. Try saying parallelogram and perpendicular in Spanish.

Before retiring, I belonged to various organizations and remained active afterwards. These included being a church lector, St. Al's Gals, UT Club Ambassador, Pan American Round Table, Austin Longhorn Club, Neighborhood Longhorns Board, UT Elementary School Advisory Council, Texas Exes Scholarship Committee, Host Committee, and Hispanic Alumni Network, and others. After several years, I burned out and cut back on some activities. I had to learn to say "no" when someone would say, "You have nothing to do, you're retired."

After retiring and joining RFSA, I served as the Scholarship Chair for a few years. There were two main benefits from serving in that capacity. One was meeting our extraordinary scholarship recipients. The other was

working with Dr. John McKetta. He was our treasurer and made many donations to honor friends and former students.

I bleed burnt orange and used to have season tickets to the Longhorns Volleyball, Football, Men's & Women's Basketball, Softball, and Baseball games. I didn't renew a few years ago. Now, I watch the televised games.

When the pandemic is over, I plan to resume being active. During the Covid era, my only community activity has been the St. Albert's Prayer Blanket Ministry, which we started two years ago. This project has kept me busy during the pandemic and is something I can do at home. Other special interests include planning events, reunions, and parties. Prior to the pandemic, I'd plan my own birthday party. I honestly don't like an event for me, but I love the planning and seeing lots of friends. I have a theme selected if there can be a party in 2022.

I am now planning our FHS Class of '72 Golden Reunion. I've planned all our class reunions, and this one will be an extra special one. I have also enjoyed planning what we call the "Fal to Austin" Reunion. Since here are quite a few persons from Falfurrias in the Austin area, we have a big bash every few years to reminisce and tell Fal stories. We're overdue because of the pandemic but it looks like 2022 may be possible.

Like everyone else, the pandemic has curtailed my activities, and I look forward to resuming community involvement and visiting with friends, former students, and family, especially over a meal out somewhere. I get tired of cooking and washing dishes.

### RFSA

There are many benefits to belonging to RFSA. Reuniting and keeping in touch with colleagues has been the most rewarding. Especially the first few years after retiring, I would say or was told, "It's nice to connect a face with a voice." At RFSA meetings, I'd meet folks from across campus with whom I'd spoken on the phone but had never met. The luncheon meetings are always informative, entertaining, and with a delicious meal. Oh yes, it's nice to win a McKetta Attendance Award. I won one when it was still \$200!

## **RFSA asks... Which campus buildings, spaces or rooms would you select if you were leading an in-person tour of campus for a new faculty or staff member?**

► - LBJ School of Public Affairs/Latin American Library, world renowned

- McCombs School of Business, impressive ground floor and some departments have national recognition

- Gregory Gym, impressive pool area and inside.

—**Kathy Armenta**

► If I were leading a tour of campus (as I often did for the UT Libraries), I would take folks to one place: the observation deck of the UT Tower. We would have to stay more than the 20-minute allotment so I could tell MY story.

I first visited the Tower when I was a Girl Scout in junior high. I'm sure that sealed my decision to attend UT for college. My freshman year often found me at the observation deck because up on the elevator landing floor was a change machine for 50 cent pieces. The machine would give two quarters for my 50-cent piece. The snack and coke machines in my dorm (Littlefield Residence Hall) ONLY took quarters. And I needed Diet Cokes and Almond Joys as part of my late-night diet.

I loved the views from all four sides of the deck but especially the one where I could watch the planes from the old Robert Mueller Airport take off and land. I was fond of the view to the west when I could see the hills of Austin. Who could pass up the view to the south and the Capitol? And from the north view I could see my dorm and the (then) other women's dorms and buildings.

I often found myself there when I needed some perspective - if I made a bad grade or didn't do well, I could think about how to "fix" that and make a better grade on the next test or paper. The view from the Tower gave me a much-needed lift when I was homesick too. (Of course we would have to stop on the second floor so I could show off the Life Science Library and tell my tales of working in the Catalog Department inside the Main Building. I would show the Hall of Noble Words with the inscriptions on the ceiling beams. I know I spent more time reading those words than studying.)

—**Peggy Mueller**

► First, I'd go to DKR Memorial Stadium. Many faculty members don't visit this place very much. I like it because of its grandeur. The games and the pageantry are nice, but I like it for another reason. I once saw a scale model of the entire UT campus. The leader of the session shocked those attending when he picked up the scale model of the Main Building (the Tower)

and put it into the Stadium. And it fit! Here was the most famous symbol of this great University dwarfed by the football stadium. That actually explained a lot to me.

Second, I'd go to Bates Concert Hall in the Butler School of Music. This is not the largest concert hall on campus, but when you look at the ceiling and then look at the massive Visser Rowland organ up front, your attention is immediately drawn to this magnificent instrument. The sound will just blow you away.

Third, I'd go to the top of the Tower. There's a lot of history there—good and bad. We all know the story of the Whitman episode. And many of us know about the suicides over the years. But I remember most, going up to the top one Friday afternoon when the cage was being built to protect everyone and seeing a workman climbing on "the outside" of the cage wires to make certain everything was secure. hat took my breath away.

Actually, I also recall sitting on the South Mall stage in front of that Tower/Main Building during commencement ceremonies. The excitement of the students was totally energetic. The families were proud, and faculty savored another academic year. But The University had completed another chapter in its long history.

—**Bill Lasher**

► Since this is a new faculty or staff member, they are probably aware of the world-renowned "treasures" like the Gutenberg Bible and will leisurely explore UT's various museums and galleries. I would show them these instead:

- The Cactus Cafe. This small space in the original Texas Union has played an outsized role in Austin's reputation as the Live Music Capital of the World, hosting many successful musicians before they "made it big". It is in an out-of-the-way location that new faculty and staff might not stumble across for years.

- The Tower observation deck. The Tower/Main Building is the most recognized symbol of UT Austin. But it has also had a dark history including the Whitman shootings and many suicides. After being closed for many years, the reopened observation deck pays tribute to lives lost, but also is a beautiful vantage point for our large campus and the ever-changing Austin skyline. I would also be sure to point out the Main Mall, the beautiful space bookended by the Tower and the Texas Capitol, and the site of many of the most important events in UT history.

- "The Color Inside" Skyspace art installation by James Turrell, on the roof of the Student Activities Center. This is one of UT's Landmarks, the public art program that has made our campus an international destination for art lovers. I chose this space over some of the other Landmarks because it is easy to miss compared to the many works that you encounter while walking on campus.

—**Tany Norwood**

# MEMBERSHIP

## Update

► We are beginning to hold in person meetings and are continuing with some virtual meetings for RFSA. We have tried to stay in touch recently with Interest Group meetings and with our Fall Luncheon and Meeting.

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 in the month your membership is due.

Keep your membership active so that you receive the RFSA Magazine and have access to group travel options (Southwest Texas and New Mexico in May 2022); activities such as bridge, foodies; two annual luncheons and the Holiday Party; and informational sessions about health, finances, and other topics of interest. We announce Webinars and other opportunities for learning and look forward to resuming more in-person options when 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. Remember that the first year after you retire is free - it's our gift to new retirees.

### **Peggy Mueller**

*RFSA Membership Chair, 2021-22*

## Get Involved

► RFSA would love to have you become more active in our organization! As we move back to normal activities, there are several ways in which you could become more involved, a little or a lot.

We are creating an advisory panel to give feedback on our activities and operations, and to suggest new ideas for RFSA to consider. This would be a small group and would solicit your feedback through email as well as occasional in-person meetings with current officers. The time commitment would be small, perhaps a couple of hours per month on average. Possible topics might include feedback on activities of our ad hoc committees (currently working on our membership directory; constitutional updates and by-laws creation; and the direction for our Exercise Interest Group), ideas for Interest Group activities or speakers, suggestions for our social events, and so forth. This group would provide valuable input to the RFSA Board to consider. If you are interested in being on the advisory panel, or know someone who might be, please contact Tany Norwood ([tanynorwood@utexas.edu](mailto:tanynorwood@utexas.edu)).

We also have Board positions available every year. Our Nominations Committee starts meeting in the winter to find nominees for vacant positions, which are voted on in the Spring Business Meeting and Luncheon. Positions include chairs for Interest Groups, administrative officers, and executive officers. These positions typically last for three years but may be renewed. This year, our Nominations Committee is looking for four positions – President Elect, Member-at-Large 1st Year, Member-at-Large UT System, and Membership Chair. Past President Corky Hilliard is chairing the Nominations Committee and would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in a Board position ([corkyhilliard45@gmail.com](mailto:corkyhilliard45@gmail.com)).

Thank you for being in RFSA – we hope you will consider becoming more involved!

### **Tany Norwood**

*RFSA President 2021-22*

AD HOC  
COMMITTEE  
FOR AN  
ONLINE  
RFSA  
DIRECTORY

► Robert Lawrence  
Chair, Ad Hoc Committee  
Chair, Foodie Interest Group

An ad hoc committee was formed in late summer 2021, with the goal of looking at the RFSA membership directory to determine if we should continue offering a printed directory, move to an online version, or consider a hybrid. Committee members are Robert Lawrence (chair), Miles Abernathy, Barbara and George Frock, and Peggy Mueller from RFSA, with Steve Blackburn, Raymond Gallardo, and Courtney Roehling from the Texas Exes.

We started with emails among the group to go over initial questions, trying to figure out what we know vs. what we don't and to also talk about the scope of what we were looking to do.

Next was a virtual meeting over TEAMS where we tried to determine the usage among the membership of the current directory. We decided to create a survey to be sent to all members. Questions were developed and discussed, and there was a TEAMS meeting to go over them again before the survey was sent out.

The committee's work was discussed at our fall luncheon, and the survey was sent to all members later that week. It was short, only seven questions. The cutoff date for responses was November 5. There was a 24% response rate with 520 surveys sent out and 125 returned, a very good response rate. The committee is reviewing the information from the survey and will be discussing options. We plan to present recommendations to the RFSA Board in the first quarter of 2022.

If you have any information to share with this committee, please contact Robert Lawrence at [rjlawrence1031@gmail.com](mailto:rjlawrence1031@gmail.com).



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## **RFSA asks...** Where would you go if you had an all-expense paid trip to anywhere in the world?

► Where would I go? I'd actually return to Antarctica. This may be an unusual choice for many, but for me it was a trip of a lifetime. We took a smallish cruise ship. I mention "smallish" because you don't want to be on one of those oh-my-god ships that just cruises on by. You have to be on a ship that makes landings. We went in January (Antarctica's summer; when temperatures almost reach freezing), and two landings still stand out in my mind. The first was when we went to Paradise Bay on the Antarctic Peninsula and communed with about a million (plus or minus) penguins. Humans are asked to give these hilarious birds the right of way. And the penguins know it. (Don't mess with a penguin toddling up an icy hill.)

As much as I enjoyed Paradise Bay and all the sea lions "lounging" on icebergs on the way in and out, the second landing was the most impressive to me. It was on a large piece of Sea Ice in the Weddell Sea. There was very little there, just this incredibly large mass of ice as far as one could see, and then it met the horizon (somewhere), and nothing. You can't hear anything—nothing. It was a spiritual experience, at least for me. It's important to know how much nothing can mean. And nothing can really mean something when you least expect it.

—**Bill Lasher**

► If you would prefer a warmer climate, then there's Tany Norwood's choice:

I would go to an over-water bungalow in Tahiti or Fiji or Bora Bora. I would spend some time every day in the spa, getting treatments and massages. I would eat delicious food, especially fresh seafood. I would float in the clear water and read and not listen to any news. I have never been to this part of the world but have always wanted to. This would be a trip about creating memories for myself, healing and finding peace, and I have always found that the sound, smell, and beauty of the ocean can do that.

—**Tany Norwood**

► I would probably go to Thailand as I have always been intrigued with the country and culture.

—**Kathy Armenta**

► If I had money and time, I would go back to Ireland and visit every place in the country and on the seashore and everywhere in between. I would eat fish and chips at every pub and drink Guinness and have tea with scones. I would try to go to horse farms and horse races and go to sheep herding demonstrations again. I would hope to find a flower show or two or three because I loved seeing all the flowers when I was there on the RFSA Ireland excursion in 2017. I would visit botanical gardens and waterfalls and fishing villages.

And if I tired of Ireland, I would go to Scotland because folks tell me it's prettier than Ireland.

(And I would hope there would be a new airplane that flew me over in record time!!!!)

—**Peggy Mueller**

## **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](https://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](https://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.

# FALL MEETING AND LUNCHEON



TOP LEFT: (Left to right) Neal Rhea, Peggy Rhea, Joan Givens, Bretna Hackert, and Marv Hackert

TOP RIGHT: Nancy Payne & Charles Mullins

BOTTOM LEFT: Members of Blazers and Silver Spurs

BOTTOM RIGHT: (Left to right) Harovel Wheat, Ella Quinlan, and Mary Bethel

► On October 26, **President Tany Norwood** welcomed everyone to the first in-person Membership Meeting and Luncheon since the Fall 2019. All of the attendees agreed that it was very special to gather once again in the Connally Ballroom for the luncheon and business meeting. Tany extended thanks to the wonderful members of the Orange Jackets, Blazers, and Silver Spurs student service organizations for their service to the University and their help with the luncheon.

On behalf of the RFSA, Tany extended heartfelt thanks to UT President Jay Hartzell and his staff for hosting the luncheon. 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.

Tany also thanked business sponsors and acknowledged their significant contributions to RFSA's financial stability. Those sponsors present were invited to stand and be recognized. RFSA members were reminded to use the sponsors' goods and services and to thank them for supporting RFSA. **Cecil Martinez** and **Jim Crook**, RFSA Sponsorship Co-Chairs, were recognized for their great work with our business sponsors.

Tany announced that **Sybil and Keith Momii**, RFSA Travel Co-Chairs, have arranged two trips for 2022. The first one, May 14-21, is a tour of Big Bend, Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands, and McDonald Observatory. The second trip, October 22-29, is a seven-night Mississippi River Cruise from New Orleans to Memphis.

**George and Barbara Frock** serve as the RFSA Historian Co-Chairs. **Professor George Frock** introduced our featured speaker, **Dr.**

**Cliff Croomes**, a former UT student of his, and the new Director of the Longhorn Band and Associate Director of Bands. Dr. Croomes spoke about the full-circle trajectory of his career from a member of the storied UT Longhorn Band to his return to his alma mater as the Director of the Longhorn Band. His talk was well received, and mutual appreciation for his return to UT-Austin was evident.

Tany returned to the podium and introduced the New Business part of the meeting agenda. She announced that nineteen scholarships were awarded this year. Five recipients were present and recognized:

Huy Bui, Senior, Public Relations, Houston, TX

David Do, Sophomore, Government and Economics, Pflugerville

Shahin Jahanbani, Senior, Physics and Astronomy, Houston, TX

Amy Li, Sophomore, Design, Richmond, TX

Shianne Lum, Junior, Journalism & Sociology, Van Alstyne, TX

Shifting to a brief financial statement, Tany reported that the projected 2021-22 year-end balance in the operating account is \$25,000. Furthermore, as Tany noted, the RFSA's financial stability is sound, largely in part due to our generous business sponsors who purchase ads in our magazine. The sponsors have allowed us to create and sustain the funding to match scholarship donations, which has increased donations. We will continue to match donations as long as we are financially able to do so.

As announced by Tany, RFSA has three *ad hoc* committees working to improve our organization:

# FALL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

TOP LEFT: Dr. Cliff Croomes. Director of the Longhorn Band and Associate Director of Bands

TOP RIGHT: Scholarship awardees left to right: Huy Bui, Shahin Jahanbani, and Amy Li

BOTTOM LEFT: McKetta Award Winners. (Left to right) Karen Kelton, French; Karen Sowash, Foreign Language Education; Molly Martin, Spouse of Law School Faculty Retiree; Colleen Kain, History; Judy Davis, Dean's Office, Natural Science

BOTTOM RIGHT: George & Barbara Frock with Cliff Croomes



- A committee is reviewing all aspects of our Membership Directory, including whether we should move to an online directory instead of, or in addition to, print. A survey was sent after the meeting to solicit input from the RFSA membership.
- A committee is updating our constitution and creating a set of by-laws. The goal is to have the work completed and distributed to the membership for a vote during the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting
- A committee is being formed to explore revamping the Exercise Group, as the Rec Center can no longer provide a trainer. Several options are being considered, including starting a wellness group or encouraging members to join Silver Sneakers, funded through UT Health insurance. Feedback, suggestions, and volunteers are needed for this committee.

Additionally, an RFSA Advisory Panel is under consideration to give feedback, propose activities, and help determine the future of the RFSA. Participation on the Panel would not involve a multi-year commitment and would provide opportunities to participate in shaping the organization. Members are encouraged to consider volunteering. Tany also announced that the RFSA has joined the Association of Retiree Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Tany and **President-Elect Susan Kessler** attended a virtual meeting in October and look forward to the benefits of sharing experiences with other members of the organization (see their report elsewhere in this issue).

Tany's final announcement was that the Annual Holiday Party would return this year on December 1st from 2:30-4:30 P.M. at the Thompson Center. Orange Santa is asking for a monetary contribution in lieu of toys so that they can present a \$40 gift card to every eligible child.

The last announcement was the winners of the McKetta Attendance Award. The late **Dr. John McKetta** was a tremendous supporter of RFSA, and his McKetta Foundation continues to provide funds so that five attendees at our luncheon meetings can receive an "Attendance Award" of \$100 each. The following attendees were the winners:

- Karen Kelton, French
- Kathy Sowash, Foreign Language Education
- Molly Martin, UT Law spouse
- Colleen Kain, History
- Judy Davis, Natural Science Dean's Office

In closing, President Norwood thanked the former and current RFSA officers and Interest Group Chairs for their service. Appreciation was extended to the servers, bartenders, set-up staff, and the kitchen staff who prepared our meal. Attendees were invited to stay and visit with friends and the meeting was adjourned.

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# RFSA VISITS

## NEW ENGLAND

ABOVE: Fall Scenery, Vermont

# RFSA VISITS NEW ENGLAND



ABOVE:  
Portland Lighthouse,  
Portland, Maine

## NEW ENGLAND RAILS AND TRAILS TOUR

KAREN HARRISON AND ROBIN  
FRADENBURGH

*Photos courtesy of Lori Threatt, RFSA Travel Agent,  
and Mireille Brisebois, Premier Tour Director*

► Finally, RFSA is on the road again!

Beginning Saturday, October 9, 2021, the RFSA travel group flew to Boston for an 8-day adventure in the New England countryside, visiting the states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Twenty-three travelers from the RFSA travel group, and their wonderful travel agent, Lori Threatt, joined fifteen other travelers from California, Iowa, Colorado, and Houston, Texas for the Premier World Discovery's "New England Rails and Trails" tour. Premier provided the group with the best Tour Director a group could ask for. She made the trip an enjoyable and care-free experience. For most of the group, the trip to see the Fall Colors of New England was a true bucket list experience.

The first full day, the group enjoyed a morning bus tour of Boston, which included a stop at the Cheers Bar for

a quick photo opt, an up-close viewing of the Boston Marathon preparations for the following morning, and a walk along a portion of the North End Freedom Trail to see Paul Revere's house and the Old North Church, in one of the oldest Boston neighborhoods. The group also had time to visit Faneuil Hall Marketplace to enjoy possibly their first lobster roll or bowl of clam chowder. Once back on the bus, the driver drove to the North Conway area of New Hampshire in the White Mountains range. Upon arriving at the lodge for the next two nights, the group enjoyed a Welcome Dinner to finish a delightful first day.

The entire group was excited to begin the second day which included two rail journeys, the first being a cog railway trip up Mt. Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast at an elevation of 6288 feet. The cog rail ascended Mt. Washington at up to 37 degrees to take the group to the top of the mountain for a 360-degree panoramic view, including mountains as far away as Maine. The temperature for the day was a delightful 65 degrees with very little wind. The photographic opportunities were abundant. After descending the mountain, the afternoon tour visit was a trip on the Conway Scenic Railroad for a nostalgic ride through the Mt. Washington valley countryside.

The following day, the group drove along the Kancamagus Highway to enjoy the spectacular views of the Fall foliage. While still in New Hampshire, the group stopped for a photo opportunity at one of many covered bridges in the New Hampshire and Vermont area. A picture taken at that bridge was later awarded the "best contrast picture award" of the trip, voted on by the members of the tour. Later, another opportunity for pictures was at the Little Grand Canyon on the edge of Vermont. The comparison to The Grand Canyon was a stretch but the Canyon was pretty and unique. After a quick stop in Woodstock, Vermont, a quaint and lovely New England town with homes and stores displaying the architecture so very typical of historic New England, the bus drove outside of Woodstock to the Billings Farm and Museum, a functioning dairy farm. Along with a self-guided tour of the farm, travelers were able to watch the afternoon milking session, visit a display of Vermont life in the 1890's, as well as stop at the Museum Shop for souvenirs. The ultimate highlight of the visit was an afternoon photo of the tour group as well as a treat of an ice cream bar made from the farm's cream. It was a delicious and delightful treat to end the day.

RIGHT PAGE:  
Fall Scenery, New  
Hampshire

# RFSA VISITS NEW ENGLAND

The Shelburne Museum, located in the Lake Champlain Valley of Vermont, was the next tour stop on the fourth day. The Museum is one of the nation's finest, most diverse, and unconventional museums of art and Americana. It sits on 45 acres and includes 39 exhibitions, including, but not limited to, a print shop, a general store, a jail, a one room schoolhouse, a light house, a barn featuring various sizes of antique wagons, a covered bridge, and the 220-ft steamboat Ticonderoga, which was moved intact from Lake Champlain across land to the Shelburne property. The owner of the acreage, Electra Havenmeyer Webb, was an ancestor of the Vanderbilt family, and the items displayed in the various buildings were from Mrs. Webb's private collections of art and American antiques.

Following this amazing visit, the group stopped at the Cold Hollow Cider Mill for a sampling of their delicious apple cider and a taste of the most delicious apple cider doughnut anywhere. To conclude the day, a visit to the Von Trapp (yes, that famous family) brewery for a tour and description of how Austrian beer is brewed in the United States.

Before traveling from Vermont to Portland, Maine the group stopped for a visit at the Morse Maple Sugar Works. The guide, a fifth-generation family employee, provided an informative and delightfully entertaining description of the collection of maple sap from the maple trees on the family property. This collection of sap takes place in early spring, mid-March to mid-April typically, depending upon the current weather conditions and the weather experienced that winter. The process of turning maple sap into pure maple syrup uses forty gallons of maple sap to make one gallon of pure maple syrup. Each tree is tapped once and typically produces ten gallons of sap, so it takes four maple trees to

make one gallon of syrup. The trees on the Morse property are 40 to 200 years old. The group thoroughly enjoyed this tour and appreciated the opportunity to participate in the sample tastings of the five varieties of the company's pure maple syrup.

The New England trip concluded in Portland, Maine and the final day was spent taking a scenic excursion around Casco Bay, an inlet of the Gulf of Maine, which includes twelve major islands and ninety-six minor islands, some inhabited by humans and others only by wildlife. The cruise was very scenic, informative, and interesting. After leaving Casco Bay, the group visited the famous and often photographed Portland Head Lighthouse and Museum. The museum had closed early for the season, so many travelers took advantage of the extra time for unique and amazingly beautiful photo opportunities.

The last evening was celebrated with a Farewell Lobster dinner, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Some travelers opted for steak rather than lobster, mainly because it was thought the lobster would be served whole and they would have to crack the shells. Unfortunately, this was a misunderstanding and most of those who selected the beef rather than the seafood were disappointed. The evening, however, was enjoyed by all and many felt a pang of regret that the trip was ending with everyone going homeward bound the following morning.

The eyes of Texas were truly upon the travelers as they enjoyed eight days of unseasonably warm weather in the Northeast and the Fall colors were at their absolute peak. The timing could not have been better!

On to the next adventure to West Texas and New Mexico!



# RFSA VISITS NEW ENGLAND



LEFT: Paul Revere's House, Boston

2ND ROW LEFT: Cog Railway, Mt Washington, New Hampshire

2ND ROW RIGHT: The winner of the group's "contrast" photos contest, taken at the covered bridge

3RD ROW LEFT: Covered wooden bridge, New Hampshire

3RD ROW RIGHT: Billings Farm Tour, Woodstock, Vermont





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# MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



TOP DOWN:  
Joyce Harris  
Laraine Lasdon

In this inaugural feature, we are introducing our new board members who were selected by our Nominating Committee and confirmed by the membership at the 2021 Spring Membership Luncheon Meeting. We asked them to tell us about themselves in their own words.

## JOYCE HARRIS, SECRETARY

▶ Joyce L. Harris, Ph.D. (UT-Austin, 1992) is a 2011 retiree from the Moody College of Communication's Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty at The University of Texas at Austin, where she taught courses in adult neurogenic language disorders and the sociocultural bases of communication. During her academic career, Harris directed three doctoral dissertations and numerous Master's theses. Dr. Harris is a Fellow and Life Member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the author of *The Source for Reminiscence Therapy*, and co-editor and contributing author of *Literacy in African American Communities and Communication Development and Disorders in African American Children: Research, Assessment, and Intervention*.

Harris, the RFSA secretary (2021-23), has been an active RFSA member since 2011. In her role as a RFSA Board Member, Harris looks forward to giving back, through her service, to the organization that has enriched her retirement years and allowed her to stay connected to her alma mater.

## LARAIN LASDON, ARTS AND CULTURE INTEREST GROUP CHAIR

▶ *When did we arrive:* Leon Lasdon arrived to teach at the Business School in 1976. He was awarded the Bruton Jr. Chair in Decision Support Systems in 1984. Leon graduated from Case Western Reserve.

Laraine Lasdon began her Docent career at the Blanton Museum of Art in the 1990's and at the Harry Ransom Center in 2015.

Laraine attended the University of the Witwatersrand and completed her studies in Drama, Dance and Music at the Corona School of Drama in London, UK. Laraine ran her own marketing, fundraising and business growth company, LLA, Inc., from 1985 to the present.

As an RFSA Board member I hope to bring to our members the many first-class opportunities to engage with arts and culture events on Campus: Fine Arts, History and Literature, Music, Dance, Theater etc.

Another goal I have is to find other members of RFSA to join with me and form a core group to carry our work into the future.

# MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

## SYBIL AND KEITH MOMII, TRAVEL INTEREST GROUP CO-CHAIRS

► *Where did you get your degrees?*

### SYBIL MOMII, MSN, RNC-OB:

I graduated from UT Austin School of Nursing with a BSN and UTMB School of Biomedical Sciences with an MSN. My clinical specialties included maternity and neonatal nursing, nutrition support and central line/PICC team. I had the privilege of being the Assistant Director of Nursing and Hospital Administrator for UTMB Austin Women's Hospital. In 2017, I retired from The University of Texas at Austin as a Clinical Instructor in Maternity Nursing, where I loved teaching our amazingly talented undergraduate and graduate nursing students. I taught various clinical courses in maternity and neonatal nursing, leadership lecture courses and was the new faculty mentor.

### KEITH MOMII, MA, MMSC, RRT, RPFT:

I graduated from Colorado University with a BA in Biology. During my service in the US Army, I graduated from Pepperdine University with an MA Human Resources Management. I completed another Master of Medical Science degree from Emory University in Intensive Respiratory Care. I was the Director of Clinical Education for Respiratory Care in the School of Allied Health at UTMB. I taught Respiratory Care students for 9 years in Galveston.

*What are you looking forward to as an RFSA Board member?*

RFSA has a wealth of activities, and we are so excited to plan some exciting trips for our members. Due to the COVID pandemic all our 2021-2022 trips will be domestic. In October 2021, the Travel Interest group heads to the gorgeous northeastern United States for a Rails and Trails adventure. In May 2022 we will explore Big Bend, New Mexico and the McDonald Observatory. In October 2022, cruise with us on the modern Mississippi River boat, the American Jazz, from New Orleans to Memphis. We look forward to traveling with you!

## ALBA ORTIZ, MEMBER-AT-LARGE, 1ST YEAR

► *Tell us briefly about your career at UT: when did you arrive, when did you retire and from what department?*

I joined the faculty of the Department of Special Education at UT Austin in 1980 and retired in 2012 as a Full Professor and holder of the President's Chair for Education Academic Excellence. During my 32-year tenure in the College of Education, I served in numerous administrative positions, including Director of the Office of Bilingual Education, Chair of the Department of Special Education, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research.

*If you taught, what courses did you teach?*

I taught master's and doctoral courses focused on the intersection of language, culture, and disability. These included, for example, Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Special Education, Language Acquisition and Assessment, and Research Methods in Multicultural Special Education. I also co-taught a Freshman Seminar, Children and Society.

*Where did you get your degrees?*

I earned a bachelor's and master's degree in speech pathology at Texas State University and my doctorate in Special Education Administration at UT Austin.

*What are you looking forward to as an RFSA Board member?*

I am looking forward to reminiscing with friends and colleagues about our wonderful careers at UT Austin and to learning from them all the different ways one can enjoy and get the most out of retirement.



### TOP DOWN:

Keith & Sybil Momii

Alba Ortiz

# IT'S A SMALL WORLD

**BY GEORGE FROCK, RFSA HISTORIAN ALONG WITH BARBARA FROCK**

► If you have had the experience of visiting one of the Disney Theme Parks, you most likely will remember the ride, “It’s a Small World.” The music is repeated over and over, and the ride is fun for both adults and children. When I reflect on our family’s experiences when our kids were young, I often think of the theme of that ride. It is amazing that there have been several times when something has occurred and I think, what a small world we live in.

When it was suggested that RFSA members submit materials that might be appropriate for the RFSA Magazine, I thought about the several times in my music career that there were things that happened that truly amaze me. I have chosen several events that have contributed to my life, and I hope that you will also think of things in your life that might be unbelievable.

Probably the most important thing that I should list is my decision to attend school at the University of Illinois. Electing to major in music with percussion as my instrument study, I was aware that Illinois had one of the major percussion programs in the country and was one of the first universities to hire a percussion faculty to guide the careers of young percussionists. I was pretty much on my own to finance my education, and I could do this by playing in bands for dance jobs. This influenced me to realize that I had to find affordable living quarters. Dorms and fraternity housing would be more costly than I could afford, so I had the good fortune of renting a room in the home of a family who lived near campus. They had a daughter who was friendly and took an interest in my roommate. Their friendship became serious, and they later married. She had a friend, Barbara Cash, from Urbana High School and told her that she wanted her to meet me. When we did meet, we dated for two years and married between semesters of our junior year. So, of all the homes near campus that rented rooms to students, I chose the one that led to meeting Barbara, to our marriage, now approaching 63 years, and two sons.

The next amazing story takes place during my graduate study at the University of Kansas. I was offered a Teaching Assistantship at KU starting in 1980. The situation there was unique because KU had no percussion professor, so I was able to start my own percussion program during the three years I was there. Although I had several students that were talented, one that I remember was a young man who had considerable drum corps experience. Since I have not tried to seek his permission for this article, I will call him Bob W. Remember his name as it will have importance in a later story.

The next chapter in our life took place when I had my first full-time position to teach at Memphis State University, serving as Assistant Director of Bands and starting a percussion program. During my second year there, I was asked to judge percussion at the Arkansas State Solo and Ensemble Contest. On one of the days of the contest I joined a group of other judges for lunch. It was at this time that I met Frank Elsass, who was the trumpet teacher at The University of Texas. There were 35-40 judges for the contest, so the chance that I joined his table was fortuitous. It was not long after that, when I received a call from Professor Elsass informing me that UT wanted to hire a percussionist to start a program at UT. The Department was then located on 21st street next to Littlefield Fountain. We later moved to Music Building East next to the baseball field. It was after that a new student, Kathleen H., from Anderson High School in Austin joined our program. Kathleen was majoring in Music Education with a percussion emphasis. Shortly after graduating she got married to a friend she met in the Longhorn Band, and they were living in Los Angeles. Not too long after that they were back to perform with the Longhorn Alumni Band, and she came to my office. She wanted to tell me that she got a job teaching band in a school district near LA. She said, “You will never guess who I was teaching with.” It turned out to be Bob W., my student from KU. With all the school districts in California, how odd that they were teaching together in the same music program and school district.

I have saved this final small world example to close this group of stories. Barbara and I had season tickets for UT Men’s basketball and noticed a young family sitting in front of us. At one of the games, he stopped by our seat, and reminded me that he was a percussionist, and had played in our Percussion Ensemble for one semester. During our conversation I mentioned that I was from Illinois. He seemed amazed and told me that his wife’s mother was also from Illinois, and had lived in Danville, which is my hometown. He said that they now live in Dallas and would be at the next game. So, at the next game his mother entered the arena, and come to my seat. Well, not only did we attend the same school, but she also reminded me that we had had a date when I took her to Shaffer Lake in Indiana to see the Stan Keaton Orchestra. I wonder how many faculty members have had a student whose mother-in-law had a date with his professor.

I hope you have similar events in your life that are unique and have meaning or add memories to your life’s story. As the Disney song says, “It’s a Small World After All.”



It's our job to  
give you our best.

This past year  
you gave us yours.

Thank You.

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*Doug, Outpatient Surgery Supervisor*



ABOVE:

One of the seven Family Orientation 2019 Welcome Sessions

## Longhorn FYI: Texas Parents

► SUSIE SMITH, DIRECTOR  
TEXAS PARENTS  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF TEXAS PARENTS

Texas Parents is a department specifically in place to assist the parents of all undergraduate students from enrollment through graduation. Many parents are surprised to hear that this office exists on campus; more are surprised to know its roots. So, let's begin with a bit of history. Seventy-three years ago in 1948, the Dads' Association was founded by a group of Longhorn dads who raised funds to establish scholarships, fellowships and professorships. In 1992, the organization was renamed the Parents' Association and became a part of the UT Austin Development operation. The Parents' Association moved from Development to become a part of the Division of Student Affairs and was rebranded as Texas Parents.

Texas Parents works to meet the parents where they are and to help them understand the many resources on campus available to help their students, whether academically, non-academically or a blend of the two.

Active listening is an important skillset in the office. Many times, when a parent calls, it is because they

are trying to help their student and they don't know what to do or whom to contact on campus. Often parents are caught off guard when learning the limitations on what they can and cannot do for their student. By acknowledging this emotion and helping the parent to see their role is not limited but that it is now different, helps lay the foundation for finding solutions for the problem at hand. The team aims to establish trust and to introduce the right resources to help, as well as empower the student.

Texas Parents can talk about the wide array of campus resources with parents due to the collaborative nature and the sincere desire of various departments across campus to help students. Texas Parents spends a lot of time understanding

departments' composition, what they do, how they do it and how it can best help a student so that when a parent reaches out for help, a good solution can be provided.

Communication is vital as parents are literally spread across the globe. Texas Parents stays in contact with them using a variety of tools including printed pieces, the [parents.utexas.edu](http://parents.utexas.edu) website and monthly eNewsletters. The department also manages the Texas Parents Association and produces Family Orientation and Family Weekend which are designed to build a sense of community for students through their families.

One of the most important ways of Texas Parents lets parents know their students are supported is by reinvesting back into the community that their students call home. Through the Student Organization Grants, Texas Parents offers financial support for student-led events, activities and community service. With the annual Outstanding Student and Staff Merit recognition awards, Texas Parents spotlights excellence within, and in support of, our student community. Texas Parents is the bridge between the university and parents that reaffirms a big campus can feel small and that together, the university in tandem with parents, are here to help our students know their resources and begin changing the world as only they can.

RIGHT PAGE:

Learning how to make the Hook 'em Horns hand sign, Family Orientation 2019

Getting acquainted before a breakout session, Family Orientation 2019

# LONGHORN FYI: TEXAS PARENTS



## Legislative Update

### ► Gwen Grigsby, Member-at-Large

The 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, approved HB 1583, the TRS Sunset Bill, which also created an ombuds position for the purpose of assisting active and retired members. The ombuds will perform member protection and advocacy functions and will regularly submit a report to the board recommending operational changes that would benefit members and would increase for the members to participate in the System's decisions.

Recently, the first-ever interim ombuds was appointed to further centralize TRS' complaint resolution practices. TRS members can continue to seek assistance with concerns or complaints on the TRS Compact with Texans page as well as several publicized telephone, email, or online choices. To reach the TRS' ombuds, email [ombuds@trs.texas.gov](mailto:ombuds@trs.texas.gov) or call 1-833-873-2331.

Link to HB 1583: <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01585F.pdf#navpanes=0>

## Constitutional Revisions

### AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

► Citing needs to update the current RFSA Constitution, President **Tany Norwood** appointed a committee of past officers to propose revisions to the RFSA constitution. Appointed were Chair **Corky Hilliard**, RFSA Past President; **Tany Norwood**, RFSA President; **Susan Kessler**, RFSA President – Elect; **Eleanor Moore**, RFSA Former President.

The Constitution Revision Committee met in September 2021 to consider revisions to the Constitution. During the summer, the committee had requested input from both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and their suggestions for needed revisions. The suggestions included revision of the Constitution into a standard Constitution and By-Laws format, addition of recently approved amendments (e.g., mission statement, additional at-large member), and clarification of Board composition and terms of office. Using that gathered information and conducting its own review, the committee identified these areas of the current Constitution for review: Name, Purpose, Membership, Meetings, Committees, Dues, and Amendments

Proposed revisions are under development following this schedule:

- Fall 2021 Membership Meeting - Inform the general membership and request their suggestions
- Winter 2022 Executive Committee Meeting – Proposed revisions presented to the Executive Committee
- Spring 2022 Board of Directors Meeting – Proposed revisions presented to the Board of Directors
- 14 Days prior to the Spring 2022 Membership Meeting – Proposed revisions distributed to the membership
- Spring 2022 Membership Meeting: Membership votes on the proposed revisions.

The committee is very interested in your input and suggestions. Please address any comments, suggestions, or requests to Corky Hilliard at [corkyhilliard45@gmail.com](mailto:corkyhilliard45@gmail.com). The current Constitution is available on the RFSA website ([sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/constitution](https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/constitution)).

**Corky Hilliard**  
*Past President 2021-22*

## 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.

**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.**

## RFSA SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM  
APRIL 16, 2021 – NOVEMBER 1, 2021

Peggy Mueller

In memory of Shirley Forbes  
Swenson

In memory of Kenneth Benjamin  
Matthews

John Uglum Ph.D.

Sharon Justice

In memory of Bob Norwood

Lewis Myers, Jr.

In memory of Jacqueline Myers

Darlene Gavenda

In memory of Gail Ratliff Mosawy  
In memory of Mary Helen Quinn

Pam Autrey

David and Phyllis Warner

Lael Hasty

In memory of Bob Norwood

Karron Lewis

Alice Reinarz

Alice Reinarz

In memory of Bob Norwood

Dr. William Lasher

In memory of Bob Norwood

Cynthia and Thomas Barnes III

In memory of Harlan Smith

Beverly Shivers

Ruth Rubio

In memory of Bob Norwood

Eleanor Moore

In memory of Bob Norwood  
In honor of Tany Norwood

Patricia Nealon

Carolyn Wylie

Stacy Hunt

Susana Aleman

Dr. Charles Mullins

### Donate By Mail

Checks should be made payable to  
**The University of Texas at  
Austin**

and mailed to the following  
address:

*Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator  
Texas Exes  
P.O. Box 7278  
Austin, Texas 78713*

### Donate Online

You are also able to donate online  
through the UT Online Giving  
website at

***giving.utexas.edu/RFSA2012***

The "Gift Designation" line  
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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.

Judith Davis

Carol Barrett

Nancy Payne

Dr. Mary Kay Hemenway

Joyce McClendon

Sybil Momii

Tany Norwood

Dr. Joyce Harris

Rebecca Silver

Colleen Mehner

Michael Corley

James and Mary Crook

# SCHOLARSHIPS

## 2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the 2021-22 academic year, nineteen students were awarded scholarships worth a total of \$47,500. To introduce the recipients to our RFSA members, we asked these outstanding students to respond to several questions. The full text of the responses is found on our website at [sites.utexas.edu/rfsa](https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa).



### **Kelsia Adil**

**HOMETOWN:** Austin

**SCHOOL:** McCombs School of Business

**MAJOR:** Finance, Canfield Business Honors, International

Relations and Global Studies

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

#### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

My career goals right now include working for the UN Development Programme or a non-profit organization that has a similar goal. Alternatively, I am also hoping to continue law school with the hopes of better understanding international law. Be it as an international lawyer, or working for the UN, or an MNC, I hope to better assist developing economies in improving the standard of living for their inhabitants.

#### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving a scholarship means a greater opportunity to see through my education without having the constant anxiety about how to finance it. It means that there are people out there that want to support my journey and think that my future is worth investing in. This scholarship would reduce my financial burden, which would help me be more enthusiastic about going to a university like UT and pursuing my passions. Receiving a scholarship means not starting my career with a huge financial setback and it brings me one step closer to my goals.



### **Daeun Baek**

**HOMETOWN:** Dallas, Texas

**SCHOOL:** Moody College of Communication

**MAJOR:** Advertising

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

#### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

I have always loved traveling, so I would love to work in the travel and tourism industry, specifically in social media marketing for a travel-related company, utilizing the knowledge and skills I gained with my advertising degree. I hope to be able to pursue this career that would allow me to work from anywhere in the world.

#### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving a scholarship allows me to focus on my academics without the financial burden and helps me get closer to achieving my goals; it is also a recognition of the hard work that I have done so far.



### **Sam Briceno**

**HOMETOWN:** Los Angeles, CA

**SCHOOL:** Cockrell School of Engineering

**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Incoming Sophomore

#### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

My main career goal is attaining my PhD in chemical engineering in order to research more about nanotechnology and its usefulness.

#### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving this scholarship means so much to me. Not only does it lessen the stress on how I am going to pay for my education, but also makes me realize that there are amiable people out there rooting for me and making it easier for me to accomplish my aspirations.

# SCHOLARSHIPS



## **Hui Quang Bui**

**HOMETOWN:** Houston, TX

**SCHOOL:** Moody College of Communications

**MAJOR:** Public Relations

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior, Graduating Spring 2022

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

One day, I want to be a professor at a university. I love teaching and sharing my wisdom.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

As a first-generation college student and immigrant, every dime of this scholarship helps alleviate the financial burden of college from my family and me.



## **Dillon Ding**

**HOMETOWN:** Houston, TX

**SCHOOL:** Cockrell School of Engineering

**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Sophomore

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

My goal as an engineer is to solve problems and impact future generations through innovative design.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

It gives me a chance to prove to myself that I have potential. Getting a scholarship shows that others recognize the talent and ability in you. It makes me value my education while becoming more appreciative of the support I receive to help me take initiative pursuing my education.



## **David Do**

**HOMETOWN:** Pflugerville, TX

**SCHOOL:** College of Liberal Arts

**MAJOR:** Government and Economics

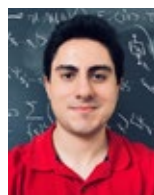
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** 2nd year

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

Throughout the myriad of topics that I have debated, immigration stood out the most. As a first-generation college student from an immigrant family, I feel compelled to help out other immigrants who want to live or study in the US. Due to the complexity of our immigration system, most immigrants lack an understanding of how to legally live in the US. I want to become a lawyer to help those individuals and families out.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Scholarships like the RFSA help remove financial barriers that would've otherwise prevented me from pursuing my passion and interests. Every scholarship I get means more time I can spend sharpening the skills necessary to get into law school and less time working through the night to make ends meet.



## **Shahin Jahanbani**

**HOMETOWN:** Houston, TX

**SCHOOL:** College of Natural Sciences

**MAJOR:** Physics and Astronomy  
(with minor in Materials Science and Engineering and Certificate in Quantum

Information Science)

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

I currently work as an undergraduate researcher on two projects related to different aspects of quantum matter and quantum information/computing. When I graduate from UT, I plan to apply for graduate schools and continue my journey of learning physics at an advanced, professional level. I hope that my contributions to quantum information would one day open new horizons in fundamental physics and future technological advancements.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving a scholarship means that some people out there genuinely care about my education and my work. Learning that my hard work would eventually pay off and that there are generous people who recognize this and invest in my future means the world to me. Now that I am receiving this scholarship, I could focus more on my academic pursuits and research without worrying about my education costs. For that, I thank all the sponsors behind this scholarship who believed in me and supported my future.

# SCHOLARSHIPS



## Jocelyn Jimenez

**HOMETOWN:** Forney, TX

**SCHOOL:** Moody College of Communications

**MAJOR:** Advertising (I am also in the Texas Media and Analytics Sequence)

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior

### WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My career goals are to work at, or perhaps create an advertising agency that focuses on celebrating everyone's voice. I hope to begin my career in an advertising agency and learn about different kinds of industries and how the media differs. After that, I hope to transition to a role in which I can positively impact the industry by ensuring that everyone is represented.

### WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving the scholarship means a lot to me. A scholarship is more than a notification on UT's CASH page. A scholarship represents opportunities that I didn't have before. With a scholarship, I can focus on my courses, networking, and the possibility of having a Friday afternoon in which I am able to simply care for myself instead of stressing over finances.



## Phong Le

**HOMETOWN:** Burleson, TX

**SCHOOL:** College of Liberal Arts

**MAJOR:** Women and Gender Studies, Sociology, Race, Indigeneity, and Migration, African and African Diaspora Studies

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

### WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My current career goal is to enroll in a doctoral program and become a professor. In my time here, the professors at UT have deeply changed and challenged my world view and I hope to be able to do the same for future students. Towards that end, I'm currently a part of the McNair Program, which I hope will reduce the barriers to graduate school.

### WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving this scholarship has reduced the financial stress of higher education and allows me to fully immerse myself within my studies. Through this scholarship, I feel as though I can freely enjoy my classes and have the capabilities to pursue research interests. I am forever grateful to the Retired Faculty-Staff Association for this opportunity.



## Joon Kim

**HOMETOWN:** College Station, TX

**SCHOOL:** Cockrell School of Engineering

**MAJOR:** Chemical Engineering

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

### WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I want to become a physician-scientist to take care of patients and conduct research in chemical/ biomedical engineering. I am excited to discover new things, develop effective methods or devices based on the findings, and integrate these methods into my medical practice to help address my patients' health issues.

### WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving a scholarship means gaining both financial and spiritual support from donors. A scholarship not only helps me focus more on my studies without worrying too much about finances but also give me a sense that somebody is supporting my pursuit of my dreams.



## Kyutae Lee

**HOMETOWN:** The Colony, TX  
(I was born in South Korea, and moved to America during 4th grade.)

**SCHOOL:** Cockrell School of

Engineering

**MAJOR:** Mechanical Engineering

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

### WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My career goal is to work for a vehicle related company—preferably automotive—and get myself enough knowledge and experience over time to design my own unique vehicle someday.

### WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving a scholarship means inspiration for me. Through such support, I am able to see how the effort has returned in fruit and how the weight of the path that will be taken in the future has been lightened, encouraging my academic pursuit.

# SCHOLARSHIPS



**Amy Li**

**HOMETOWN:** Richmond, TX  
**SCHOOL:** College of Fine Arts  
**MAJOR:** Interactive Design  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Sophomore

## WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I hope to one day become a product designer!

## WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

I am very honored and grateful to receive this scholarship. Receiving a scholarship means so much to a first-generation college student like me. It has such a positive impact on my education by funding my educational expenses and freeing up my time so I can focus on my studies.



**Shianne Lum**

**HOMETOWN:** Van Alstyne, TX  
**SCHOOL:** Moody College of Communication  
**MAJOR:** Journalism  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Incoming junior

## WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

As I've gone through classes at UT Austin, I have realized I want to end up in editorial writing, preferably long-form writing. Ideally, I'd love to work for National Geographic or another magazine that focuses on other cultures, countries, and people. A job like that would allow me to expand my horizons and allow me to travel for work, which is the dream. I'd also eventually like to publish my own poetry book.

## WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

To me, a scholarship is so much more than just financial assistance. As a first-generation student who is paying for my education myself, this scholarship is an opportunity to expend more energy on my courses and working for student publications. It relieves me of so much stress regarding finances and is allowing me to finally apply for and pursue internships this semester.



**Ethan Martin**

**HOMETOWN:** Round Rock, Texas  
**SCHOOL:** College of Natural Sciences  
**MAJOR:** Computer Science

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Sophomore

## WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My career goals are to be a positive influence on the world. I believe that by using my skills as a programmer I can make a meaningful impact on the world through my work.

## WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving a scholarship motivates myself to work harder. I understand that scholarships represent someone or something supporting my endeavors, so I want to try my absolute best to make those that support me proud.



**Binh Nguyen**

**HOMETOWN:** Palacios, TX  
**SCHOOL:** College of Natural Sciences  
**MAJOR:** Public Health  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

## WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

This intended major will offer me a way to pursue a career in medicine. As a leader, I enjoy the autonomy and responsibility that it entails. I can fulfill these needs better as a physician by directing and guiding supporting healthcare team members. Moreover, I want to assist others through their worst moments through the power of medicine, as it is the most rewarding part of this profession. After growing up in a low socioeconomic household and being raised by immigrant parents, I understand how difficult it is to receive adequate health care because health is often not viewed from a holistic perspective. This is an issue that I hope to address as a medical provider because the lack of accessible health care and disregarding other extraneous variables that can negatively affect health are upstream issues that deserve attention to break the cycle of inefficient care.

## WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

This scholarship means that I am one step closer to my goal of pursuing a career in medicine. I was a very sickly child growing up, so I always had many people worried and taking care of me. Now that I am much older and healthy, I hope to return the favor by pursuing a career in healthcare.



# SCHOLARSHIPS



## **Tien Nguyen**

**HOMETOWN:** Fort Worth, TX  
**SCHOOL:** College of Natural Sciences  
**MAJOR:** Biology Honors  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

I would like to go to medical school and eventually become a physician and researcher. Currently, I am interested in entering OB/GYN or pediatrics and conducting health disparities research.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving this scholarship offers me the financial flexibility to pursue my passions and academic interests. I feel very grateful to have been selected for a scholarship.



## **Kristina Tran**

**HOMETOWN:** Arlington, TX  
**SCHOOL:** College of Liberal Arts  
**MAJOR:** Psychology  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Junior

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

I hope to go into a career that allows me to work alongside children with disabilities and their families.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

I feel very honored to receive this scholarship because it has allowed me to focus more on learning and less on the financial costs of getting an education. It has driven me to work harder so that I can be someone who is deserving of this opportunity.



## **Nida Virabalin**

**HOMETOWN:** Sugar Land, TX  
**SCHOOL:** Colleges of Liberal Arts and Engineering  
**MAJORS:** Anthropology and civil engineering

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Sophomore

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

My career goal is to be a landscape archaeologist and understand why a specific civilization chose to construct with a specific material, and later use that knowledge of materials to help developing countries build infrastructures that do not need to be repaired frequently.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

Receiving this scholarship allows me to focus more on my studies and less worrying about how I will pay for my education so that I can use my knowledge and skills to help improve the lives of others. It also means that there are others out there who believe in me and that I will be able to achieve my goals in life.



## **Dallas Wilburn**

**HOMETOWN:** Lone Oak, TX  
**SCHOOL:** College of Liberal Arts  
**MAJOR:** Psychology  
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior  
(graduating May 2022)

### **WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?**

I am to pursue at least a Master's in Counseling or Social Work, and then become a licensed counselor through either of those tracks.

### **WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:**

As a first-generation low-income student, scholarships such as this are quite literally what enable me to attend college. The receipt of this scholarship is a sign of hope that I will be able to achieve my dreams and leave the mark I hope to, as I continue my journey in higher education. I am eternally grateful for being selected for this scholarship and hope to honor it in the same way I was honored when I was selected.

# 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 May 1, 2021 and November 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, as well as notable friends of the University. Any additions or corrections to the list should be addressed to Barbara Frock, Historian, at [jbfrack@gmail.com](mailto:jbfrack@gmail.com)

**Aristotle Arapostathis, 67**  
*Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation Centennial Fellowship in Electrical Engineering*  
May 19, 2021

**Mary Jane Ashby, 77**  
*Widow of Lea Ashby, Applied Research Laboratories*  
July 2, 2021

**Renata Babuska, 89**  
*Wife of Ivo M. Babuska, Robert G. Trull Chair in Engineering, Professor Emeritus*  
April 2, 2020

**Lee E. Baker, 96**  
*Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering*  
February 7, 2021

**Leon "Coach" Black, 89**  
*Basketball Coach*  
October 12, 2021

**David T. Blackstock, 91**  
*Professor, Mechanical Engineering*  
April 30, 2021

**David Block, III, 76**  
*Director, Nettie Lee Benson Collection, UT Libraries*  
June 15, 2021

**Francis Xavier Bostick, Jr., 89**  
*Hayden Head Centennial Professor Emeritus, Electrical and Computer Engineering*  
October 20, 2021

**Arnold Herbert Buss, 97**  
*Professor, Psychology*  
June 26, 2021

**Joy Blouin Chandler, 83**  
*Wife of Dr. B. Glenn Chandler, former Director of the Butler School of Music*  
May 4, 2021

**Robert Alexander Divine, 92**  
*George W. Littlefield Professor Emeritus in American History*  
October 13, 2021

**Barbara Glenzing Dodd, 68**  
*Emeritus Professor, Educational Psychology*  
November 27, 2021

**Helen Loretta Graeber Dulany, 84**  
*Nurse, UT Student Health Center*  
July 3, 2021

**John Riley Durbin, 85**  
*Professor, Mathematics; 2003 Recipient of University Civitatis Award*  
August 9, 2021

**Lawrence Michael Falk, 58**  
*Assistant Athletics Director*  
May 27, 2021

**Maxine Yvonne Fowler, 82**  
*Wife of David Fowler, Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering*  
July 10, 2021

**Marye Anne Fox, 73**  
*Vice President for Research at UT; Director, Center for Fast Kinetics*  
May 9, 2021

**David Gavenda, 88**  
*Professor Emeritus, Physics; Past President of RFSA*  
November 13, 2021

**William Patton Glade, 91**  
*Professor, Economics; Director, Institute of Latin American Studies*  
May 2, 2021

**Mary Ware Agnor Griffith, 93**  
*Stores Clerk I, Interior Design Resource Library*  
November 5, 2021

**Frank J. "Jim" Guszak, 89**  
*Professor Emeritus, Curriculum and Instruction*  
July 9, 2021

**Nan Hampton, 84**  
*Senior Lecturer, College of Natural Sciences, Pre-Med Genetics Lab.; Texas Excellence Teaching Awards 1996 & 2000*  
July 30, 2021

# IN MEMORIAM

**Santiago Hernandez, Jr.**

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

**Joseph Marshall Horn, III, 81**

*Professor, Psychology*  
August 28, 2021

**Devereaux Maitland Huffman, 86**

*Management Teacher, College of Business*  
May 29, 2021

**Barbara F. Immroth, 79**

*Professor Emeritus, College of Information*  
September 6, 2021

**Claud Edward Kissmann, 73**

*Project Management and Construction Services*  
February 11, 2021

**Larry Gene Liberty, 64**

*Senior Software Engineer*  
September 21, 2021

**Vincent A. Mariani, 93**

*Professor Emeritus, Art and Art History*  
June 30, 2021

**Michael Menaker, 86**

*Professor, Zoology*  
February 14, 2021

**Charles Douglas "Doug" Messer, 79**

*Senior Associate Athletics Director*  
July 27, 2021

**Donna Moore, 86**

*Administrative Assistant, UT Power Plant*  
July 28, 2021

**Calvin "Jitter" Nolen, 96**

*Director, UT Student Union; Associate Director,  
UT System Development Board*  
August 13, 2021

**James Robert "Bob" Norwood, 80**

*Husband of Tany Norwood, RFSA President*  
June 30, 2021

**Alexander D. Opiela, Jr., 91**

*Research Engineer and Systems Development  
Specialist, UT Defense Research Laboratory*  
June 26, 2021

**Linda Galloway Ottmers-Hofmann, 78**

*Senior Administrative Associate, McCombs  
Graduate School of Business*  
August 29, 2021

**Hazel Orlean Maulsby Pipkin, 89**

*Clinical Professor, Pharmacy Administration*  
August 18, 2021

**Michael Paul Pires, 65**

*UT Campus Club*  
September 21, 2021

**Howard Taft Prince, II, 80**

*Director, Center for Ethical Leadership, LBJ  
School of Public Affairs*  
May 19, 2021

**Larry Reep, 82**

*Master Machinist, UT Geological Sciences  
Machine Shop*  
July 29, 2021

**Jay Donald Scribner, 85**

*Professor Emeritus, College of Education;  
Former Chair of the Department of Educational  
Leadership and Policy*  
September 11, 2021

**Tracy Allen Seaton, 63**

*Warehouse Director, Intercollegiate Athletics  
for Men*  
October 26, 2021

**Raymond Sepeda, Jr., 72**

*Landscaping Services Department*  
June 30, 2021

**Eva Janice Summer, 77**

*Founding Director of the Center for Public Policy  
Dispute Resolution, UT School of Law*  
June 25, 2021

**John Tate, 96**

*Regental Professor Emeritus, Mathematics*  
October 16, 2021

**Patricia La Marr Jones Teed, 80**

*Assistant Director, Texas Union*  
July 22, 2021

**Susan Grace Threadgill, 61**

*Associate Director of Production, University  
Events*  
October 8, 2021

**Steven Weinberg, 88**

*Professor, Jack S. Josey-Welch Foundation Chair  
in Science; 1979 Nobel Prize in Physics*  
July 23, 2021

**John Conrad Westkaemper, 97**

*Professor Emeritus, Aerospace Engineering and  
Engineering Mechanics*  
April 20, 2021

## **RFSA**

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## **Congratulations, Carol!**

**Congratulations, Carol,  
for 19 years of support to  
RFSA! We appreciate all  
that you do for us.**

**- YOUR FRIENDS IN RFSA**



### **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](mailto:donnabell1015@gmail.com) or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes / P.O. Box 37278 / Austin, TX 78713.

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