

The University of Texas at Austin  
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION  
Fall Luncheon and Business Meeting  
Connally Ballroom, Etter-Harbin Alumni Center  
October 18, 2022  
Noon-2:00 P. M.

Opening Remarks, Susan Kessler, RFSA President

The President welcomed attendees to the Fall Luncheon and Business Meeting, and asked them to continue enjoying the buffet and wine bar while listening to a few announcements and introduction.

In 1982, then President Peter Flawn instituted RFSA in recognition of the past and continuing service of UT retirees. In addition to many forms of support to our organization, the Office of the President hosts two luncheons annually. We extend thanks to President Jay Hartzell and his staff for hosting today's luncheon.

Everyone was reminded to validate parking tickets before leaving. RFSA members and their spouses are eligible to win McKetta Attendance Awards. They were reminded to get a ticket for the drawing from one of the staff or at the reception table in the lobby.

Orange cards at each place setting had a description and contact information for all Interest Groups. Representatives from the groups were seated at each table. Interest Group Chairs were asked to stand to be recognized and thanked for providing fun and meaningful activities for RFSA members. Yellow forms were provided so that members could indicate their interests, name, and current email addresses so that Chairs can notify them directly. Ideas for new interests were welcomed.

Special thanks were extended to members of the Orange Jackets and Texas Blazers for their help with today's luncheon, as well as for their service to UT.

At approximately 12:20 P. M., President Susan Kessler acknowledged five RFSA Scholarship recipients who were in attendance. They were: Cassandra Araiza, Sophomore, Human Development & Family Service; Erica Buckland, Senior, Psychology; Cecilia Gonzales, Junior, UTeach Theater Education; Ryan Leung, Junior, Human Development & Family Sciences; and Anfal Mohamed, Sophomore, Neuroscience.

This year RFSA awarded 21 \$2500 scholarships. In addition to support from RFSA membership, significant contributions from business sponsors are responsible for RFSA's financial stability and the scholarship awards.

Attending business sponsors were: Molly Sherman, St. David's HealthCare; Mary Hoyt, FastPark and Relax; Laurens Fish III, Weed-Corley-Fish; and new sponsor, Vince Martinez, Vince Martinez Realty.

Business sponsors not in attendance were: Covert Family Auto Dealerships; Karavel Shoes; Stan's Heating, Air & Plumbing; Westminster Senior Living Community; and

University Federal Credit Union. RFSA members were encouraged to patronize sponsors and thank them for their support of RFSA. Also, thanks to Cecil Martinez and Jim Crook, RFSA Sponsorship Co-Chairs, for building great relationships with our generous sponsors.

Members were invited to stop by the Travel Group table to pick up brochures for upcoming trips to Nova Scotia & the Canadian Maritimes and New York City & the Hudson River Valley. The Iceland trip has sold out.

Next, President Kessler introduced Dr. Mary Steinhardt, the invited speaker, spoke about her decision-making dilemmas concerning her impending retirement. The talk served as a lead in for 15-minute Table Talks, facilitator-guided discussions to solicit ideas for RFSA. A newly formed Advisory Council, Chaired by Sharon Justice, is seeking input from the members-at-large to inform events and activities to best meet the needs of all RFSA members.

Three recent retirees stood and introduced themselves, by name, retirement date, and former UT unit. All were welcomed and encouraged to continue participation in RFSA.

President Susan Kessler called the business meeting to order.

Minutes from the Spring Meeting are posted on our website. Holly Thompson is keeping the website current to ensure that all RFSA members are kept up to date.

Information about UT changes to insurance and email accounts were provided at each table.

The Treasurer, Bill Lasher, reported an Operating Fund Balance of \$34,300 as of August 31, 2022. The balance in the account for Matching Scholarship Donations was \$20,000 as of August 31, 2022. Donations can be made on line, or by using the yellow form provided at each table.

The Board voted to make a \$2500 donation to support UT Outpost. Next Spring, we will again be collecting food donations from RFSA members for UT Outpost's on-campus food pantry.

The Holiday Party will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at the Thompson Conference Center. Cash donations to support UT families through the Orange Santa program will be accepted.

RFSA members were reminded to update email addresses.

In 2013, Dr. John McKetta, RFSA Treasurer Emeritus, instituted the John McKetta Attendance Award to be awarded at each RFSA Luncheon and Business Meeting to a member or spouse. The awardees of \$100 each were: Mary Steinhardt, Sharon Hinkle, Maria Pineda, Pat Boone, and Sylvia Huntsman.

President Kessler invited all RFSA past presidents and current officers to stand to be recognized and thanked for their service to the organization. Other members were invited to become involved in RFSA leadership.

President Kessler extended thanks to the Texas Exes staff, especially Carol Barrett, for their indispensable contributions to the operations of RFSA. Thanks were also extended to the servers, set-up staff, and kitchen staff who prepared the buffet meal.

All faced the Tower to sing the *Eyes of Texas*, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 P.M. Attendees were welcomed to stay and visit with friends and students.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce L. Harris". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary