

RFSA MAGAZINE

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

ANNUAL REPORT

pg. 8

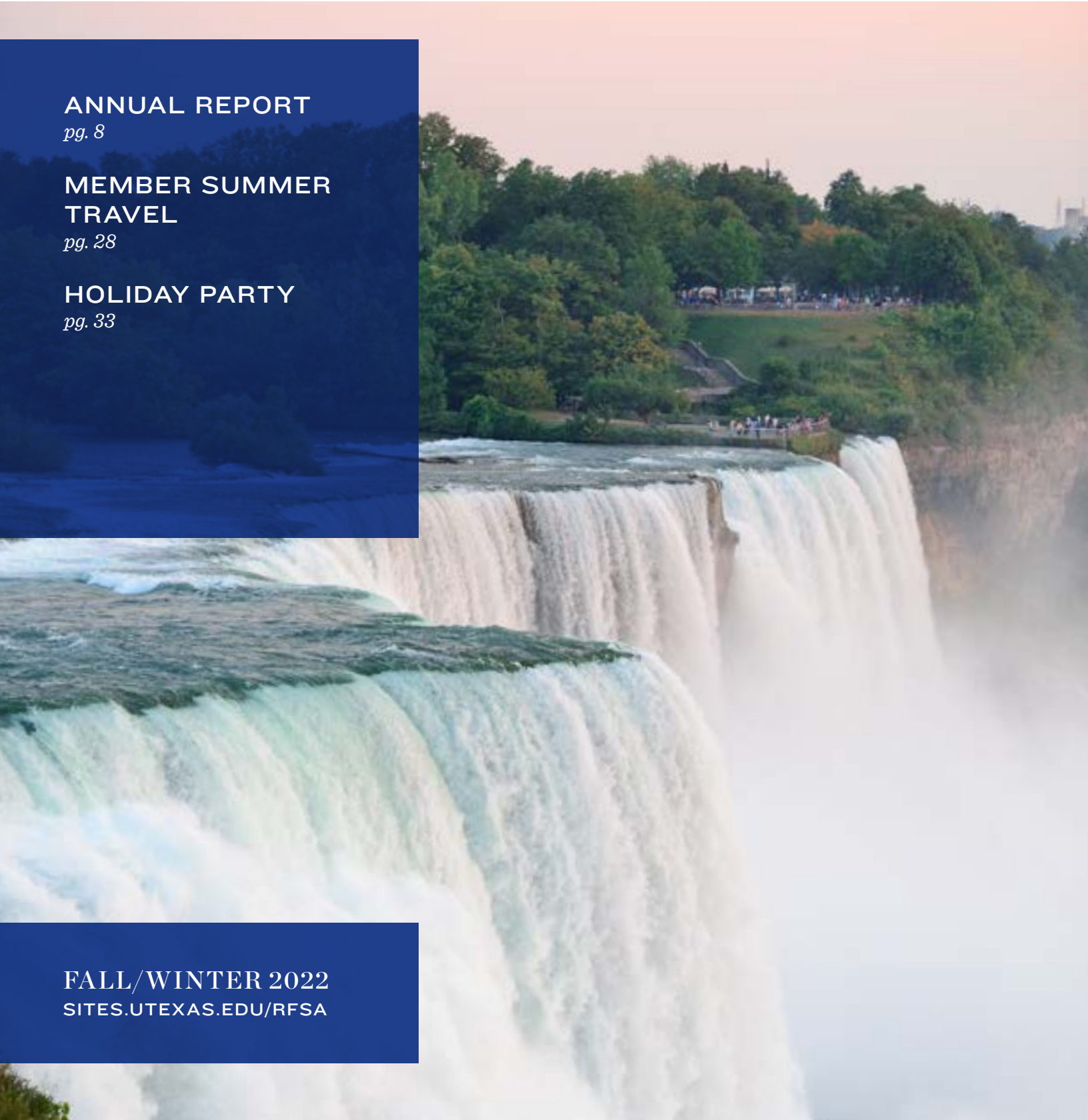
**MEMBER SUMMER
TRAVEL**

pg. 28

HOLIDAY PARTY

pg. 33

FALL/WINTER 2022
SITES.UTEXAS.EDU/RFSA



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BRIDGE	Mary Kay Hemenway
EXERCISE	Carolyn Wylie
FOODIES	Robert Lawrence
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TRAVEL	Sybil & Keith Momii
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT & COORDINATION	Carol Barrett and the Texas Exes

Front Cover photo: The American Falls from Niagara Falls closeup at dusk after sunset. Photo by Songquan Deng

Back Cover Photo: View from the Inn of the Mountain Gods in New Mexico. Photo by Randy Wallace

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



► WE'RE LISTENING!

It's a privilege to serve as your RFSU president for 2022-23. As a relatively new member of RFSU and its Board, I continue to be impressed by the organization as we work together to provide the point of connection, continuity and communication for the mutual benefit of our members and The University of Texas. We're excited to welcome at-large members John de la Garza and Mary Knight to the Board, joining a talented team that brings deep and broad UT experience and insight from across the campus.

As soon as my term began, I realized how much I didn't know, so turned to the wisdom of others who had served in this role in past years. I'm especially grateful to past-president Tany Norwood and president-elect Charles Roeckle for their guidance and encouragement. We quickly reached consensus that this meeting of past presidents should become an annual event. What a wealth of knowledge, advice, and support! I listened.

A new Advisory Panel, started by past-president Tany Norwood and enthusiastically led by at-large Board Member Sharon Justice, seeks to discern how we can make RFSU even more relevant for our members. They quickly concluded that the best answers would come from current members, and the perfect opportunity was at the Fall Luncheon on October 18. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Mary Steinhardt, delivered a spot-on introduction for 15-minute "Table Talks" conversations, facilitated by volunteers from the Board and Advisory Panel. A one-question survey guided input from attendees to let us know why they joined RFSU and what else they'd like from their association. The

responses will be compiled, evaluated, prioritized, and recommended to the Board. We listened!

Our Interest Groups are back in full swing after a period of dormancy during the pandemic. Many thanks to all the dedicated chairs and co-chairs who provide a wide array of opportunities for involvement. The Spring and Fall Luncheons gave attendees a chance to learn more about and to join these groups. Be sure to read more about them in this issue!

Helping current University of Texas students is a central part of our purpose, and you can share our pride in the 21 outstanding students who each received \$2,500 scholarships from RFSU this year. You can contribute to the Scholarship Fund through the RFSU website: <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>.

In addition to scholarships, we have supported UT Outpost, a free on-campus food pantry and career closet for students. Spring Luncheon attendees brought food donations, and the Board has voted to donate an additional \$2,500 to UT Outpost for this academic year. We'll collect food donations again in the spring. Our annual support of Orange Santa and UT Remembers are other ways RFSU helps the University community.

I hope you've enjoyed the RFSU Updates that you have received this fall via email. We will take care not to fill your inbox with too many emails but want to provide more timely information than can be communicated in the magazine. And I encourage you to check out our "new and improved" website: sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/.

A new Membership Task Force will begin meeting soon to explore new ways to recruit and retain members. Details will be shared as their plans develop. In the meantime, what led YOU to join RFSU? Do you have an idea that can help RFSU grow in numbers and in opportunities for involvement? Are you interested in joining an Interest Group or serving on the Board? Your ideas always are welcome – contact me at swkessler@atx.utexas.edu and I'll connect you with the right folks.

We're listening.

SUSAN KESSLER,
President, 2022-23

TEXAS CONNECT

► *Texas Connect* is a magazine for staff and faculty that was created in partnership between University Marketing and Communications and Texas Student Media in the Moody College of Communication. *Texas Connect* was created to shine a light on the people who power this university and to provide information that will help them thrive. We want to offer a chance for all members of the university's staff and faculty to celebrate our stories and meet their colleagues across the hall, down the street and throughout the UT community. The magazine includes storytelling, design and photography contributed by upper-division students as well as staff and faculty members. It is self-funded through advertising revenue.

RFSU advertises in *Texas Connect* with a goal of letting faculty and staff learn about our organization before they retire. Check it out: texasconnect.utexas.edu

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FALL LUNCHEON MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS



► President Susan Kessler presided over the Fall Luncheon Meeting, held on October 18, 2022, in the Connally Ballroom.



GUEST SPEAKER

Our invited speaker, Dr. Mary Steinhardt, Professor in the College of Education, University Research Integrity Office, and former Faculty Ombuds spoke about her own impending retirement.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our twenty-one 2022-23 Scholarship Recipients. Each was awarded \$2,500. See related article in this issue.

ATTENDEE RESPONSE

Response cards were placed on tables to allow attendees to show their interest in joining interest groups, along with their email addresses.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgement of the John McKetta \$100 Attendance Award recipients (from left):

- Mary Steinhardt
- Sharon Hinkle
- Maria Pineda
- Pat Boone
- Sylvia Huntsman

FALL LUNCHEON MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS

TREASURER BILL LASHER'S REPORT

\$34,300*

Operating Fund Balance

\$20,000*

Balance in the account for Matching Scholarship Donations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTION

\$2,500

Donation approved for UT Outpost *As of August 31, 2022

NEW RFSA ADVISORY PANEL

Sharon Justice, Chair, and the panel members are asked to look at the future of RFSA. An update is provided in this issue.

Please visit <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/meeting-minutes-archives/> for the entire Luncheon Minutes document.



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2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY FOR RFSA MAGAZINE

FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2022

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, 2021-22: 598

Events:

- Fall, 2021 Luncheon and business meeting, 150 attendees
- Spring, 2022 Luncheon and business meeting, 140 attendees
- Holiday Social and collections for Orange Santa, 120 attendees

Interest Groups:

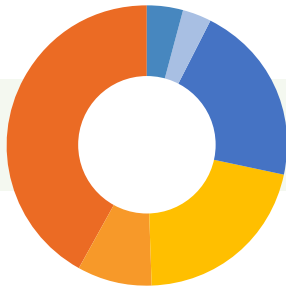
Note: Due to Covid protocols, most groups did not have a full year of meetings.

- Arts & Culture – 2 in-person events, 14 participants; numerous virtual events and recommendations
- Bridge – 8 meetings, 69 participants; plus, online sessions
- Exercise – 20 sessions, 90 participants
- Foodies – 7 events, 73 participants; including joint day trip with Travel
- Health – 5 events, est. 40 participants
- Speaker Series – no meetings
- Travel – 4 trips, including a joint day trip with Foodies, 81 participants

Service Projects:

Note: Due to Covid protocols, two of our traditional projects were not held in person: “Retiring from UT”, and the Health and Wellness Expos.

- Orange Santa, RFSA members made online donations, plus \$800 in cash donations at Holiday Social; assisted 949 children from 406 families with \$40 gift cards; total of \$36,000 raised campus-wide
- 40 Hours for the Forty Acres, \$3,010 in donations received for RFSA Scholarship Fund, matched by RFSA Operating Account
- Faculty Retirement Seminar (“Should I Go or Should I Stay”), one presentation
- UT Remembers, 31 members assembled ribbons and bookmarks for ceremony
- RFSA Scholarship Fund, A total of \$21,655 in donations (including the 40 Hours for the Forty Acres donations), matched by RFSA Operating Account



EXPENSES

\$23,914

- SCHOLARSHIP MATCH
\$10,000 42%
- MAGAZINES
\$5,035 21%
- TEXAS CONNECT AD
\$2,025 8%
- SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
\$5,047 21%
- MCKETTA AWARDS
\$1,000 4%
- OTHER OPERATING COSTS
\$807 3%



INCOME

\$18,904

- BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS
\$7,000 37%
- DUES
\$6,404 34%
- TRAVEL INCOME
\$4,500 24%
- MCKETTA FOUNDATION
\$1,000 5%

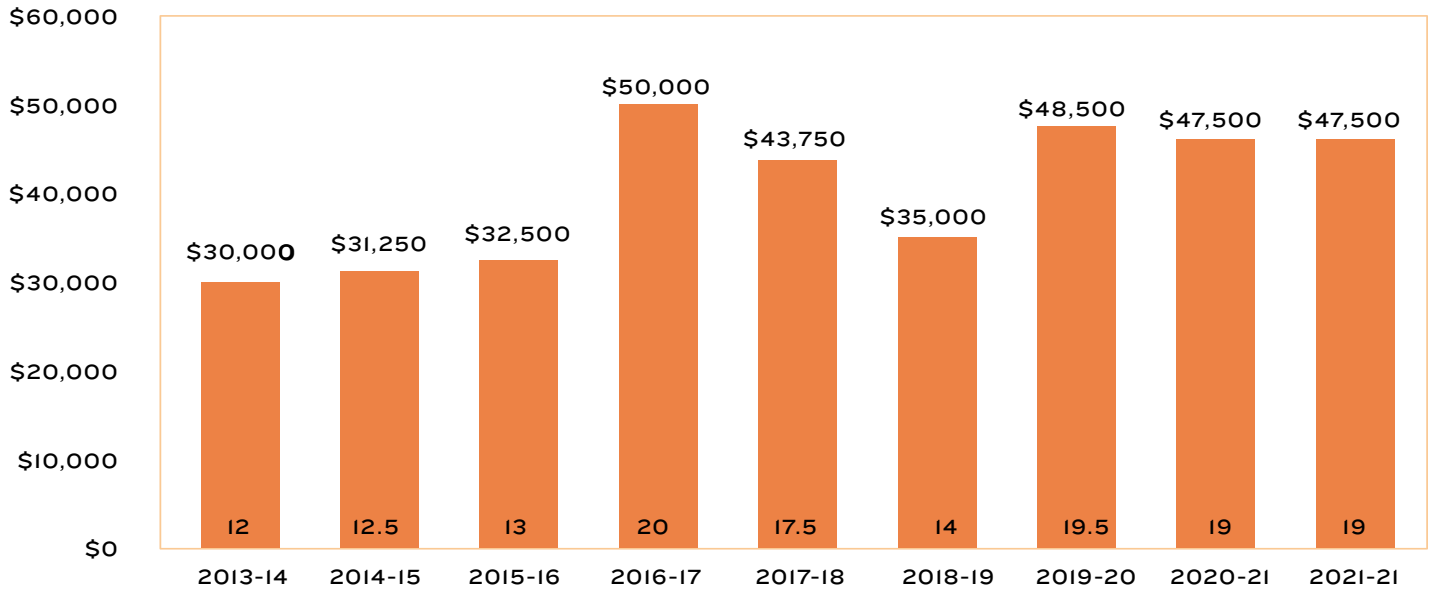
2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

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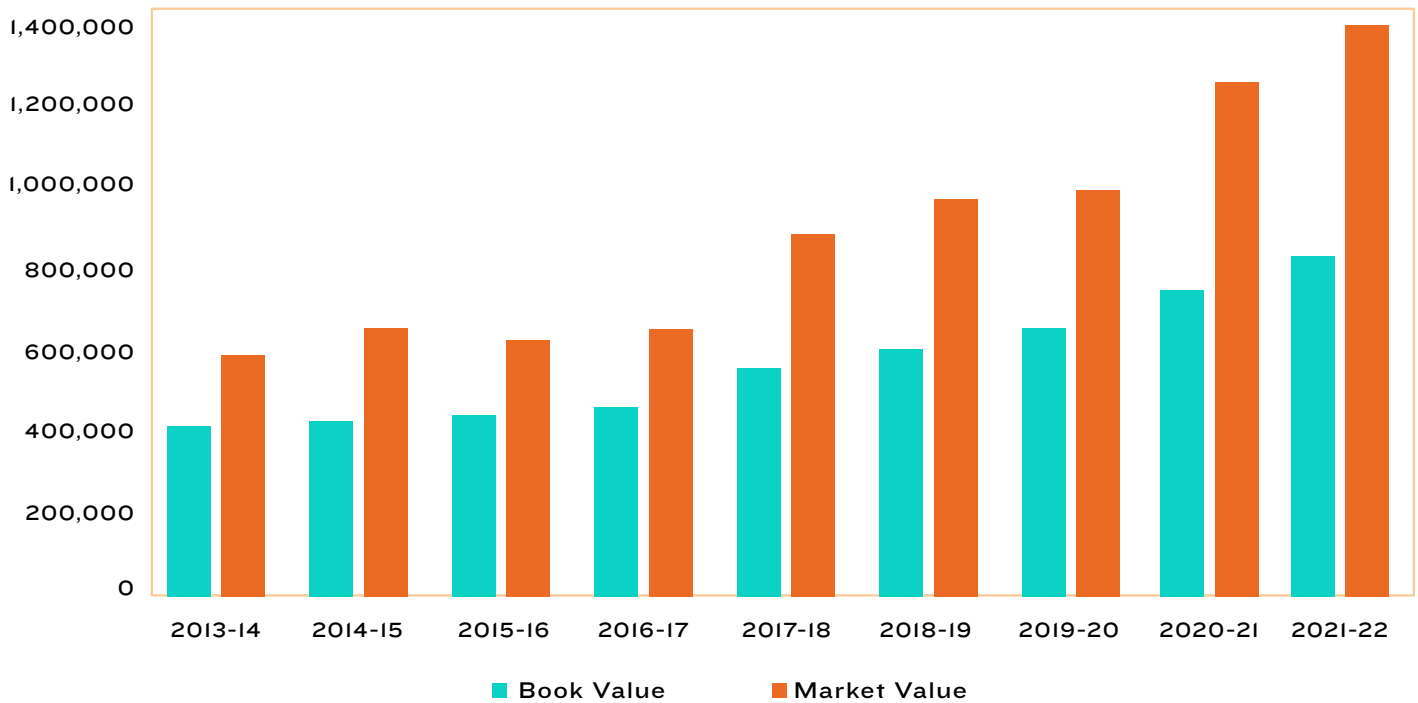
FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2022

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TOTAL & NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

\$2,500 Individual Award



SCHOLARSHIP FUND VALUE



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MOLLY & TERRY MARTIN



ABOVE: The Austin Polka Band, Texas German Heritage Society for Oktoberfest 2021

HOW DID YOU MEET?

▶ We were both members of the band in Edina, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis. Molly's father, who owned a stained-glass factory, built the house Molly grew up in. It is now the Edina Art Center. Terry was born in Connecticut and lived in Illinois, Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin and northern Minnesota before moving to Edina for 7th grade. Both of us took French from Terry's father.

Molly spent a year in Switzerland with the American Field Service and returned fluent in German. After earning her nursing degree from the U of M, she returned to Switzerland and worked as a nurse in Bern while Terry finished his law degree at the U. We married in the summer of 1968, joined the Peace Corps, and spent two years in Liberia where Molly taught elementary school and Terry taught at the University of Liberia Law School. Molly learned Liberian cooking from our neighbors and began building what is now an extensive collection of African textiles.

A chance encounter led us to Pittsburgh, where Terry earned his master's degree in library science and Molly was a charge nurse at Shadyside Hospital, on the only floor used by the Pittsburgh Mafia for their families. The Godfather had just been published and from her patients Molly received the impression it was pretty true to life. We bought our first two pieces of furniture – a sleep-sofa and an ironing board – and were down to \$12.46 before Molly got her first paycheck.

CAREER

▶ On New Year's Eve 1971, we pulled our U-Haul into a motel on IH35 in Austin and walked across the highway, which one could do then, to the Villa Capri for dinner. We saw the Tower on the way in and Molly asked if that was where the shooting had happened. Every other table in the motel dining room had a TV set; UT was playing Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. Molly was sure that coming to Austin was a mistake!

That soon changed when Molly was taken on as an operating room nurse at St. David's. Her supervisor was the legendary Norma White, who had supervised the arrival at Brackenridge of the Tower victims, many of whom arrived in hearses borrowed from funeral homes; Austin lacked ambulances at that time. When Mrs. White opened Bailey Square Surgical Center in 1973, she took Molly with her. Molly would bike to work from our house in Oakmont Heights and lock her bike to a specially built bike stand in the basement.

Meanwhile, Terry was learning the library business at UT from another Austin legend, Roy Mersky, head of the Tarlton Law Library. This often involved 10–12-hour days, so Molly had time to take a vegetarian cooking course from Martha Shulman, who now writes food articles for the New York Times, and to learn ice-skating at Northcross Mall.

In 1976, we moved to Washington, DC; Terry to become head of the Georgetown University Law Center Library, Molly to become a nurse at Gallaudet University, where she learned American Sign Language. Terry managed to join the Washington Post Band, formed solely for the purpose of playing the Washington Post March in the 1976 Bicentennial Parade. While in DC, Terry became principal trumpet in a community orchestra. Molly, in addition to continuing her figure skating lessons, became a docent at the National Museum of African Art.

In 1981, we moved to Lexington, Massachusetts, with our three-year-old daughter, Allegra, as Terry had been offered the position of Librarian and Professor of Law at Harvard. Our son, Adrian, was born in Cambridge and Molly retired from nursing. She studied African art at Harvard, becoming very close to the professor, Dr. Monni Adams, one of the world's top experts in the field. Molly then found a part-time job at a large African art gallery. In addition to selling art, she also gave tours to school groups. Soon she was taking African art into the schools to help English and social studies teachers enrich their classes. She also shared her knowledge of African textiles with many

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MOLLY & TERRY MARTIN

weaving and textile groups in and outside of New England.

Molly also started inline skating, eventually becoming a nationally certified teacher of the sport. She still skates regularly at the Veloway near the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

At Harvard, Terry was a member of the Harvard University Library Council, served on the Committee on African Studies, and chaired the law school's Journals Committee for many years. From 1986-1991 he chaired the committee that implemented the university's on-line catalog. From February of 1995 until October of 1997, he led a \$36 million renovation of Langdell Hall, the library's main facility.

He was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction from 1982-1985. Other professional activities have included serving on the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Internet (1986-1990); serving as president of the New England Law Library Consortium (1994-1996); and serving as a member of several law school accreditation teams. In 2012 the American Association of Law Libraries presented him with its lifetime achievement award.

During our years in Massachusetts, Terry played trumpet and French horn in local community bands and orchestras, in the pit for Harvard's Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and for various operas produced at Harvard. When he passed the audition for the New England Brass Band, he learned about the rich tradition of the British brass band movement.

We returned to Austin in 2008 as Terry was asked to serve as the interim director of the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas. This involved coordinating the joint degree program between the University of Texas Schools of Law and Information. We also became friends with former chief justice Jack Pope, as Terry helped him with his archives.

Terry was also asked to chair the advisory board of the China-United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries first held in Beijing in May 2009. His father had been born in Beijing to missionary parents and we were able to visit the school where his grandfather had been principal.

Having decided that summers in Austin are better than winters in Boston, we decided to stay in Texas. Terry became president of the Austin Brass Band. After Molly signed him up for a Lifetime Learning class in consort recorder, Terry became active in

the local chapter of the American Recorder Society. Molly played with the Inside Out Steel Band for many years. She later joined the Damenchor of the Austin Saengerrunde, where she could practice her German.

At Harvard, Terry taught a seminar in art law, which he also offered at Texas. He continues to teach courses in Nazi-looted Art and Art Crime for the Lifetime Learning Institute.

HOW DID THE PANDEMIC IMPACT YOU?

▶ Before Covid, we spent time every summer in Santa Fe. Molly would work at the International Folk Art Market and we would take in the local music scene. This included stopovers in west Texas that were always enjoyable.

During the pandemic, Molly organized all the recipes she has collected over the years and we ate very well! Terry built a website for his recorder arrangements: www.tootle.org.

Since the pandemic we have not been able to visit our family back east or our many friends in Europe. Our son, who is a crime analyst for the Rochester Police, and his wife, who is a neurologist, have three boys under ten. We have yet to meet the youngest in person. Our daughter is a church musician in Worcester, MA, who also conducts two other choirs and teaches conducting at the Berklee School of Music. We see her every Sunday, as her church service is on YouTube.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A MEMBER OF RFSA?

▶ Terry served three years on the RFSA Board. The Foodies Group was hatched at our house during a meeting to revise the RFSA Constitution. Sharon Justice took that idea and ran with it; Bob Lawrence has expanded it quite a bit. We look forward to the luncheons and to maintaining connections with RFSA friends.



ABOVE: Inside Out Steel Band at One World Theater

INTEREST GROUPS



ABOVE: April Bridge group.

BELOW: Phil and Karen Kelton at the Blanton Exhibition, *The Painted Cloth*. Courtesy of Laraine Kentridge Lasdon.

ARTS AND CULTURE

▶ As members know there is a new system of posting events. Timely notices for a variety of options including Bass Concert Hall, The Longhorn Jazz Band sponsored by the Butler School of Music, a Chamber music concerts at Bates and exhibitions at the Blanton and Harry Ransom are sometimes difficult making it essential for us to communicate with each other and be super-proactive making sure your name is on our Interest group email list. (You can text me any time at 512-784-3657 with contact details)

With venues opening up on Campus members will soon have even more Arts options. And we plan on carefully curating options off campus now that arts venues are offering in person events.

FIELD TRIPS: Our group is working with well known and beloved Karen Pope, art historian (retired Baylor and UT) who has for many years delighted participants with her brilliantly organized field trips to Museums and locales (e.g. Galveston, Marfa) featuring Art,



History and Architecture trips. Her group called “Art Insight” has agreed to allow us to present these trips as they come up. By collaborating with a proven, existing Arts group we can begin signing up for trips.

I recently went on one of these to the Kimbell/Carter/Contemporary in For Worth. Great group, amazing lunch and lectures (or sleep) on the bus there and back.

Her fliers and brochures and website include full details and prices for the luxury, educational, curated outings. www.artinsight.info.com

I am still hoping to have an “in person” Interest group or “Friends of the Arts” group meet in person. This semester we have had RFSA member tours at the Blanton and the Harry Ransom – both “gems of the University”. We hope more folks will join is a we plan additional tours and Arts and culture coffee dates.

Laraine Kentridge Lasdon, Arts and Culture Chair

Contact me: 512-784-3657 or larainelasdon@gmail.com

BRIDGE

▶ The bridge group began its post-Covid pause in December 2021, and after taking a break in January, began meeting monthly from February through August, 2022. The group plans to continue playing monthly at the Alumni Center, usually on the first Monday of each month from 1-4 pm.

We play “party” bridge, not duplicate, and welcome new players. Since we try to make up tables of four, please contact the bridge chairperson (Mary Kay Hemenway) in advance of your interest in attending.

For further information, contact Mary Kay Hemenway at mkhemenway@utexas.edu.

EXERCISE

▶ The RFSA exercise group meets in Gregory Gym on Monday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. To participate you need to join Rec Sports, if you are not already a member. You can join at their office just inside the entrance to Gregory Gym. There is an additional fee of \$10 per month for the RFSA class.

Experienced exercise instructor Sandy Erickson leads us in a variety of exercises designed for all ages and fitness levels. She can adapt the exercises for anyone with special needs.

This is a small, friendly group that needs more members. If you are a person who has resisted caring for your physical needs, come and check us out. Do not be intimidated. We have a lot of fun as well as increasing our fitness levels. (As an extra incentive, we

INTEREST GROUPS

have been known to get together for coffee and snacks after class from time to time.)

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

FOODIES

► The Foodie Group has been meeting regularly post-pandemic. We started up again in March 2022. Picking up where we left off in the last article:

In May, we had lunch at Salt Trader's (a Jack Allen restaurant). Unfortunately, I chose a day where many people had other plans. Only two people joined me, Karen and Phil Kelton. We had a good time and enjoyed our lunch. The Kelton's had not been there before and mentioned that they would be back.

In June, since only two people were able to make it in May, we had lunch at Salt Trader's again. Nine people were able to be there, the service and food was great. People that had not been there before said they would be back (this is a measure that I put a lot of stock into). For those not familiar with Salt Trader's, it is primarily a seafood restaurant.

In July, it was Thaim for Thai food (OK, bad joke). We went to Titaya's on Lamar Blvd for dinner. I use the term "we" loosely, I was not able to attend. I came down with a light case of Covid the weekend before and decided to sit this gathering out. Sharon Justice graciously agreed to be the on-site contact for dinner. Eleven people were there, and all had an enjoyable time.

In August, we did Mexican food at Manuel's on the north side of town. Six people were there, a couple that had not come out with us before. The service was very good, as was the food. It was great meeting new people, and the conversation was grand.

In September we ate with gusto at Gusto Italian restaurant (OK, another bad joke). This was another dinner gathering. The service was excellent, and the food was great. We met on a Monday, because the Monday special was 25% off bottles of wine all night long...that was fun. This was a larger group, we had 14 people.

October brought some cooler weather in the evening. We went to Sawyer & Co. and sat outside on their patio. The weather was quite cooperative. This place has southern style food, several dishes with a Louisiana/Cajun flair. Most of the food was very good, there were two dishes that were not as good, people said that if they came back, they would not get them again, unfortunate. The conversation and company were very good, people enjoyed themselves.

This brings us to a Mighty Fine November. Trying



something different, we had a casual lunch at Mighty Fine Burgers (this is the last entry, so you are all safe from more bad jokes). This was a come-if-you-can-make-it affair, no reservations. We had about 15 people, 6 of whom had not been to a Foodie gathering before. Everyone liked the food, the casual atmosphere, the conversation, and meeting new people.

The Foodie Group is growing. After the October luncheon, I have over 100 people on my contact list for the group. What will happen if everyone in the group signs up for one of our gatherings? Well...we will cross that bridge if we get there. There is always room for more, if you are interested in getting into the group and come join us when you can, please contact me, Bob Lawrence, at rjlawrence1031@gmail.com.

HEALTH

Thank you, Linda Millstone, for five years of Health Interest Group Leadership!

This is a time of change for the Health Interest Group. Linda Millstone has stepped down after serving five years as Chair or Co-Chair. Under her excellent leadership RFSA members learned about chronic diseases, common medical issues found in our age-cohort, as well as Pandemic and Covid-19 topics. We will miss you!

The topic of Health has been added to the Speaker Series umbrella. Karrol Kitt will serve as the Co-Chair for Health in the Speaker Series Interest Group

We look forward to offering health programs in the Speaker Series this year.

Karrol Kitt (kkitt@austin.utexas.edu), Co-Chair

Foodies Members Members
enjoying a Mighty Fine meal

INTEREST GROUPS

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES

► The Speaker Series resumed operation in the fall of 2022 with two meetings. The Speaker Series now combines RFSA's former Finance and Investment, Discussion, and Health groups in a new and more generalized format which will allow for speakers on a wide variety of topics and on a more flexible schedule.

Mr. Steve Saltwick of Braver Angels was our speaker for the September 14 meeting at Old Quarry Library. He gave a presentation on the Braver Angels mission to facilitate discussion and provide recommendations for

situations where there are differing views on political or other issues.

Mr. Chris Cybulski of Edward Jones was scheduled to speak on November 17 on the financial markets and related matters for investors, but he informed us shortly before the meeting that he was sick so we will reschedule him for a later date. Instead of his talk,

those attending had an excellent general discussion of possible topics for future Speaker Series meetings.

We held this meeting at the Howson library.

Phil and Karen Kelton created a google group so that we can communicate directly via email with those interested in the Speaker Series meetings. This has been especially useful in reaching interested members. Please contact one of the co-chairs to add your email address to our list.

Meetings going forward will be at the Howson or Old Quarry branch libraries, with the nominal date to be on the second Wednesday of the month. However, the Austin Public Library has changed their rules and procedures for reserving meeting rooms. As a result, we can no longer reserve specific dates for a full year in advance but only 30 days in advance. We will thus schedule our meetings at either location and on days not necessarily the second Wednesday in order to accommodate both library and speaker schedules. Attendees should pay careful attention to the date and location for meetings in both the google group and general RFSA news emails. Members can also check the RFSA web site for topics and dates/times.

Co-chairs Alice Reinarz (areinarz@tamu.edu), Phil Kelton (pwwelton@gmail.com), and Karrol Kitt (kkitt@austin.utexas.edu) will continue to lead this effort.



Steve Slatwick of Braver Angels

TRAVEL

We have 4 exciting RFSA trips planned in 2023. We hope you will join us on new adventures next year! Trip highlights, prices, brochures, and registration forms are posted on the RFSA calendar at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/calendar/>

Contact Lori Threatt at Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants at lori@relaxedescapes.com or phone (737) 228-3680 for questions and registration.

Iceland Land of Fire and Ice

These two popular trips are booked for March 2023. We will be hosted by Mayflower Cruises & Tours and Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants. Due to the high demand, a second trip is added (Trip A) on March 8-15. The original trip (Trip B) is March 15-22, with Lori Threatt joining us and the Momii's, designated as trip leaders. Both trips A and B are sold out. We will explore beautiful sites in Keflavik, the South Shore, Reykjanes Peninsula, the Blue Lagoon, Reykjavik, the Golden Circle and hope to see the Northern Lights.

Nova Scotia & The Canadian Maritimes

This trip is planned for July 22-30, 2023, hosted by Premier World Discovery and Relaxed Escapes. Robin Fradenburgh will be the trip leader. Spots are available, so sign up soon. Highlights include visits to scenic Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, a ferry ride to Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Hopewell Rocks, Moncton, and Lunenburg.

New York City & the Hudson River Valley

Our adventure is scheduled for September 22-28, 2023, hosted by Premier World Discovery and Relaxed Escapes. Billie Pierce will be our trip leader. Spots are still available so please contact Lori Threatt to register for the trip. Highlights include sightseeing in New York City (Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 911 Memorial Museum, One World Observation Deck), attending a Broadway show, then visits to the Hudson Valley, West Point, Boscobel house and gardens, Hyde Park, a maple syrup farm, New Paltz, Kingston and a Hudson River cruise.

We encourage all our travelers to be fully vaccinated and boosted and to follow all current CDC guidelines during travel.

We look forward to seeing you on our upcoming trips!

Co-Chairs Sybil and Keith Momii at sybil.momii@gmail.com and keith.momii@gmail.com



RFSA VISITS

NORTH AMERICAN CITIES

ABOVE: After dinner stroll to Ville Marie, Montreal

RFSA VISITS

Great Eastern Canadian Cities Tour

SYBIL & KEITH MOMII

Photos by Sybil Momii, except where noted

► The RFSA Travel Group visited the great Eastern Canadian cities August 10-18, 2022. Our trip was hosted by Lori Threatt at Relaxed Escapes and Premier World Discovery. Trip Leaders were Sybil and Keith Momii. David Woodly, our tour guide, spoke fluent French and English while providing interesting (and often humorous) details about each historic location.

The trip was beautiful, and our 20 travelers explored Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, 1000 Islands, Toronto, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Buffalo, New York. The only glitch was getting to Canada. In the early morning hours while waiting to board the first leg of our flight, the Austin Bergstrom International airport was completely evacuated due to a fire alarm. After missing our flights, Lori Threatt miraculously re-booked all our travelers and we eventually arrived in Montreal about 1 am. Everyone kept a positive attitude, and we were grateful to start our tour right on time.

In Montreal, we toured the city and feasted on a 5-course meal at Sagamite Restaurant in Old Town Montreal. At the Notre Dame Basilica, we were fortunate to arrive during a resounding pipe organ concert! We saw St. Joseph's Oratory, Jacques Cartier



Square, McGill University and enjoyed a panoramic view of the city from Mount Royal Parc. In Ville Marie we discovered the Bevo café, complete with orange and white décor.

Via Rail Canada took us on a scenic country train ride to the provincial capital Quebec City, the “Paris of North America”. We toured Old and New Quebec, North America’s only walled city. A French Canadian expert dressed in authentic 1800’s attire guided us through the Plains of Abraham, Battlefields Park, Le Chateau Frontenac and The Citadel. Montmorency Falls (the highest falls in Eastern Canada) was so picturesque! Next on the tour was Albert Gilles Copper Museum. RFSA members met the artists and many of us bought beautiful handmade copper jewelry and souvenirs.

ABOVE: Horseshoe Falls, Niagara, Canada, from Skylon Tower.

LEFT: Bevo's Café in Montreal. Left to right: Richard & Kathy Armenta, Sybil & Keith Momii, Susann Wiener. Photo by Sandy Hertell.



RFSA VISITS



TOP: Authentic totem pole on historic grounds of Rideau Hall, Ottawa. Lori Threatt.

BOTTOM: Riverboat tour of 1000 Islands, Kingston, Canada



After traveling alongside the St. Lawrence River to Ottawa, we enjoyed a city tour. We viewed Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court, the Canadian Museum of History, Peace Tower, and walked through the beautiful grounds of Rideau Hall. A changing of the Guards at the War Memorial led by a mournful bagpiper ended our day.

We cruised the 1000 Islands on a river boat viewing small islands with huge mansions, castles, and tiny homes. The area straddles the US and Canadian borders, including one home which spans both countries.

In the large metropolis of Toronto, the capital of the Province of Ontario, we saw huge downtown skyscrapers. We enjoyed snacks and shopping at the St. Lawrence seafood market. Many of us enjoyed a tasty but unusual dinner we were issued gloves and bibs to dine on spicy shrimp and vegetables served in bags. Very, very messy!

Visiting the charming town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls were highlights of our trip. We were amazed at Mother Nature's force when we boarded the Niagara Falls tour boat for an 'up close' encounter with the three thundering waterfalls. Needless to say, we were drenched after cruising to Horseshoe Falls. We enjoyed a delicious farewell dinner at Skylon Tower, 775 feet above the mighty falls. Everyone had ample opportunity to stroll around both towns and take photos of breathtaking panoramic views.

The final day of travel held a surprise. Our flights departed late in the afternoon, so we had extra time to explore Buffalo, NY. Buffalo City Hall houses a treasure trove of art deco architecture and paintings. We enjoyed the sites at the Buffalo waterfront, Veterans Park and Naval Military Park, a Frank Lloyd Wright home, and Delaware Park Japanese Gardens. After a smooth flight home, we arrived home tired but satisfied with our great Canadian travel adventures.

RFSA VISITS



ABOVE: Group at Prada Marfa, photo by Dan Rothwell

RIGHT: Sand Sledding at White Sands, photo by Dan Rothwell

RIGHT PAGE:

ABOVE: McDonald Observatory, photo by Sybil Momii

BELOW: World's largest pistachio, photo by Dan Rothwell

RFSA Visits Southwest Texas and New Mexico

SYBIL AND KEITH MOMII

Photos by Dan Rothwell and Sybil Momii

▶ On May 14, 2022, the RFSA Travel Group set out on an 8-day adventure to explore some of the most spectacular regions of southwest Texas and New Mexico! Twenty-two travelers, including our wonderful travel agents, Lori Threatt (Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants) and Terri Ross (Sun Tours), arrived in El Paso, Texas for the trip of a lifetime.

We boarded a luxurious motor coach and headed to Las Cruces, New Mexico. Our first stop was at the historic La Mesilla Plaza for a delicious welcome luncheon at Peppers on the Plaza. We visited the 47-acre New

Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, then stopped at the Las Cruces Railroad Museum. We viewed an exhibit on Billy the Kid and artifacts from early New Mexico settlers' days.

We visited McGinn's Pistachio Tree Ranch, home of the world's largest pistachio (and a great photo opportunity!), then traveled to White Sands National Park, the world's largest gypsum dune fields. We traipsed along the raised Interdune Boardwalk and the Dune Life Nature Trail. Terri Ross, our tour director, brought special "dune sledding saucers," which were very entertaining for brave sledders and our amused observers. Despite the dry desert heat, the white, velvety sand was cool on our bare feet as we barreled down the sand dunes on flying saucers.

We continued to Ruidoso, NM where we lodged at the luxurious Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort, located on an Apache Indian Reservation in the Mescalero Mountains. Our group enjoyed a variety of activities, including zip-lining over the lake, relaxing at the pool/spa, losing a little money at the casino, shopping, enjoying a steak dinner at Wendell's and watching a spectacular sunset. A lunar eclipse peeked over the mountains late in the evening.

In Roswell, NM we explored the International UFO Museum and Research Center. Were there alien invasions? Sorry, we are sworn to secrecy, and you will have to find out yourself!

We traveled south to Carlsbad Caverns National Park in the Guadalupe Mountains where over 100 caves lie deep beneath the Chihuahuan Desert. We descended 700+ feet for self-guided strolls along a 1.25-mile path exploring the 8.2-acre Big Room. We explored the Bottomless Pit, Giant Dome, Rock of Ages, Painted Grotto, giant stalactites, and bizarre formations. The cave has natural air conditioning, staying a consistent 57 degrees.



RFSA VISITS

We crossed into west Texas, near Fort Davis to visit the McDonald Observatory. The observatory complex is a world-renowned astronomy research facility operated by The University of Texas at Austin. We were warmly greeted by our own RFSA members, Dr. Tom Barnes, and his wife, Cyndee, for a picnic lunch. Dr. Barnes is the retired Superintendent of the McDonald Observatory. He graciously hosted a special behind-the-scenes private tour led by himself and the current Superintendent, Dr. Teznie Pugh. We toured the three largest working research telescopes, viewing the Hobby-Eberly (11-meter mirror, weight 80 tons, dedicated in 1997), the Harlan J. Smith (2.7-meter mirror, weight 160 tons, completed in 1968) and the Otto Struve (2.1-meter mirror, weight 45 tons, dedicated in 1939). The famous Hobby-Eberly telescope rotates on a bed of air, using air cushions to lift and position the enormous instrument to study 70% of the visible sky. The McDonald Observatory astronomers study everything from planets and asteroids in our own solar systems to far flung galaxies billions of light years away.

After the tour, we checked into the Prude Ranch, an historic, rustic working ranch, established in 1897, just outside of Fort Davis. We admired their large herd of horses and dined on an authentic ranch dinner. We returned to McDonald Observatory for a Star Party under beautiful clear skies, learning about night sky constellations and viewing celestial bodies through five telescopes.

We toured the Museum of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. The museum displays a reptile fossil, the Texas Pterosaur, which is the largest known flying creature of all time.

Our journey south took us to the majestic Big Bend National Park. We admired breathtaking panoramic views, including abundant high desert plants and wildlife, rivers, carved limestone canyons and mountains. Although the pandemic caused staffing problems everywhere, we were treated like royalty at the Chisos Mountain Lodge. We watched two beautiful sunsets through The Window. The next day, we traveled with a park guide to view more Big Bend scenery, including a hike at the Sam Nail Ranch ruins, the Overlook View at Tuff Canyon, Sotol Vista, Mule Ears, Castolon Visitors center, and enjoyed a field lunch near the Santa Elena canyon by the Rio Grande River.

We explored the small desert town of Marfa. It is a quirky arts hub, famous for movie stars, the glamorous Hotel Paisano and the Judd art galleries. We dodged traffic



for a photo opportunity at Prada Marfa! Our travelers spent the final night in El Paso after picking up 'to go' steak dinner from the popular Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch.

Lastly, we visited the Magoffin Home, a state historic site which offers insight into 1800's family life. The mansion has nineteen rooms constructed with adobe brick, milled wooden beam ceilings, authentic furnishings, and lush gardens. We headed to the El Paso airport, happy to be homeward bound but already missing this wonderful travel experience.





RFSA Mississippi River Cruise Trip

BY ROBIN FRADENBURGH

PHOTOS BY ROBIN FRADENBURGH, EXCEPT AS NOTED

► Four travelers went on the RFSA adventure featuring a cruise up the Lower Mississippi River, Oct 22-30. The American Cruise Lines cruise started in New Orleans, with five stops along the river, Houmas House, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Vicksburg, and Memphis with one day sailing all day from Natchez to Vicksburg. Unfortunately, the cruise occurred at a time when the Mississippi was experiencing historically low water, the lowest the river had been in 40 years. The travelers were notified the day before the trip began that the last leg from Vicksburg to Memphis would be by bus. So, while being disappointed by the news, the group made the best of it. They were able to visit some lovely antebellum mansions, plantations and homes in Darrow, Vacherie, Natchez, and Vicksburg. Travelers enjoyed lots of good meals, entertainment, lectures, and time to visit on the upper deck. The weather was lovely while on the ship, so cruising on the top deck with a drink in hand was in order.

The first evening of the trip, the group stayed overnight at the InterContinental in New Orleans. The next morning, the group boarded buses to the shipyard where they boarded the American Jazz which debuted in 2021. After getting access to their cabins and participating in an emergency drill, the ship set sail to Houmas House Landing. Each day during the cruise on-ship activities were planned for those who didn't wish to disembark at the various stops. A historian gave an hour lecture each afternoon on topics related to where the travelers were on the river. Meals in the dining room were the same time daily. They also had a more casual breakfast and lunch available for those whose schedules didn't meet the Dining Room's. Room service was also available. There was entertainment

nightly at 8:30, an onboard entertainer and guest entertainers that boarded when in the port.

Houmas House was fun as travelers could walk to the plantation from the ship. Unlike the bus trips that RFSA usually takes where everyone does the same excursion, this allowed for individual choices. That afternoon at Houmas House Landing, all four took the excursion to Oak Alley. That day they saw two gorgeous antebellum plantations.

After Houmas House, the access up ramps and over levees got harder because of the water levels. In Baton Rouge, the ship was able to tie off at a dock, but at the rest of the stops the ship was literally beached. Everyone enjoyed their excursions in Natchez and Vicksburg. The day sailing on the river was fun because travelers could witness the low water and the issues for ships trying to navigate the river.

Upon leaving Vicksburg, everyone boarded buses for the 4 ½ bus ride to Memphis. The group going to Graceland had an early call, boarding the buses at 5:30AM, arriving ca. 10:30. It was worth the red eye trip though for avid Elvis fans. The group stayed that night at the Hyatt Centric right off Beale St.

Everyone went their own direction the next day...either home or continuing their time in Memphis. The low water levels allowed for views of beautiful beaches and large sandbars that normally weren't visible. The travelers, serendipitously, were able to witness and experience an epic period on the mighty Mississippi!

ABOVE: Oak Alley Plantation, Vacherie, LA

BELOW: Left to right: Mark Harrison, Jean Harrison, Lorie Withrow and Robin Fradenburgh. Natchez, photo by Jean Harrison



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Three new members were elected or appointed to the RFSA Board of Directors in 2022-23. We asked them to tell us about themselves.



**MEMBER-AT-LARGE, 1ST YEAR,
MARY KNIGHT**

▶ Mary E. Knight worked at The University of Texas at Austin for 37 years. Prior to her retirement in May of 2019, she served as Associate Vice President for Finance and Special Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Previously, she held positions as Budget Director, Payroll Manager, and Assistant Director in the Office of Internal Audits. In 2015, she served as Interim Vice President and CFO. She is a retired Certified Public Accountant and Certified Informations Systems Auditor.

Mary is currently serving as the Treasurer of the Bakari Foundation, and previously served on the Board of the University Federal Credit Union and Austin Child Guidance Center. She continues to volunteer with the Austin Child Guidance Center.

Ms. Knight graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1982 with a BBA in Accounting. She is also a 2004 graduate of Leadership Texas, a professional development program for women.

After retirement, Mary joined RFSA and attended one luncheon in 2019 before in-person meetings were paused during the pandemic. She looks forward to actively participating and seeing colleagues again.



**MEMBER-AT-LARGE, UT SYSTEM,
JOHN DE LA GARZA**

▶ John, a Coastal Bend native, holds a BA in Government from UT Austin (1966). He retired as Senior Vice President for Corporate Relations at Bank of America in Dallas in 2002 to join the UT System as Vice Chancellor for Community and Business Relations.

His System role was emphasizing the public higher education in Texas was, and remains, a vital public “good” as well as a private and personal achievement. His position was eliminated prior to his 2008 retirement as the System began to reduce staffing.

John was civically active in Dallas, and in Austin he served on the city’s Convention and Visitors Bureau board. He is a member of the Austin Area Research Organization.

A Catholic permanent deacon currently at St. Austin parish, he previously served in campus ministry at the University Catholic Center.

John met Dorothy (BJ, UT Austin, 1966), his spouse of 55 years, at the UT-Army football game in 1964. He has an historical family tie to the UT Lands and Santa Rita No. 1 as his great uncle was private secretary to Big Lake Oil Company president Levi Smith and helped establish Texon, the now-abandoned oil town in Reagan County.



IT/WEBSITE – HOLLY THOMPSON

▶ Holly Thompson graduated with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Music (Applied Clarinet) from UT Austin (1977, 1978). After over 30 years of managing software engineering groups, Holly has taken over the IT/Webmaster role in RFSA (working closely with Miles Abernathy). Most importantly (in Holly’s eyes), she is the sister of Tany Norwood!

LONGHORN FYI

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin

► The University of Texas at Austin is adding the rapidly growing Olympic sport of Beach Volleyball as a women's intercollegiate sport beginning this spring.

"We are excited to have Beach Volleyball join the nation's top athletic program and be a part of our winning Longhorn tradition," said UT President Jay Hartzell. "The combination of Indoor and Beach Volleyball will provide greater competitive opportunities for our student-athletes, increase our ability to attract top talent and deliver even more compelling sporting events for our fans and community."

Under the direction of Jerritt Elliott and the current Indoor Volleyball staff, the Longhorns will pursue a limited spring schedule in 2023 before becoming a fully sanctioned intercollegiate sport for the 2024 season.

Beach Volleyball will join a group of 20 intercollegiate programs that has led Texas to back-to-back LEARFIELD Directors' Cup titles as the nation's top overall athletics program during the past two seasons. Texas is coming off a year that included four National Championships and six NCAA runner-up finishes. Of its 20 varsity sports, 10 finished in the NCAA top-two finishes, 12 among the top five and 14 in the top 10.

ALIENWARE LONGHORN ESPORTS LOUNGE

Courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin

► The University of Texas at Austin and Dell Technologies have established the university's first dedicated esports space for students — the Alienware Longhorn Esports Lounge — building upon Dell's iconic gaming brand, Alienware. The investment also includes technology support for the larger Alienware Longhorn Esports Arena planned to open next school year.

Esports is a form of competition using video games, with the players competing individually or in teams. The new facility will create an elite gaming environment for students to train and compete at the highest level in esports competitions, locally and globally. The lounge is now open on the main level of the Texas Union and features Alienware Aurora R13 desktops, Alienware X and M Series laptops and a multiplayer console area.

The planned 3,300-square-foot arena will open in the soon-to-be renovated Texas Union



ABOVE: Courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin

Underground and will be equipped with nearly 50 desktops, a varsity room, production center, console game space, and a viewing area.

"Dell Technologies empowers our students with the resources to be part of the Longhorn winning tradition, and to better position them for careers in the booming esports and gaming industries," said President Jay Hartzell. "The new facility not only promotes greater visibility for esports at UT, it marks the beginning of an exciting new era of competition and community."

Founded in 2010, Longhorn Gaming is the largest esports student-sponsored organization on campus. The group provided input on the creation of the facility as it will offer an inclusive space for its members to compete on top-of-the-line equipment.

As the gaming industry has grown, Austin has become a hub for content creators. UT offers a rich curriculum — focused on computer science, emergent media, and design — for students interested in gaming industry careers through the University of Texas Game Development and Design Program.

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

► We have two ways for you to stay connected to RFSA online: our RFSA website and our Facebook group. Be sure you have our new website bookmarked sites.utexas.edu/rfsa, where you will find photos, information about our organization, upcoming events, and other RFSA news.

If you are a Facebook user, join us at facebook.com/groups/131246400563201/members, or by searching groups for "University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association". We want this to be a place where members can post activities, updates and photos, and not just those about RFSA. We want to create a community for our members to share all kinds of information.

WESTMINSTER LIFE IS ALL IN THE DETAILS

THE KORMENDYS: WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS SINCE 2020

Mary Kormendy
Adventure Travel Expert

*"We quickly saw that
Westminster is the best
senior living community
in Austin."*

John Kormendy
Observational Astronomer

*"People come here from all
over the USA, because of the
rich range of activities and the
complete range of care that it
provides. If our health needs --
Mary's and mine -- ever differ,
we can always get all the help
that we need in one place."*



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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, 2022 – NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Rox B. Covert	Admiral Bobby R. Inman (Ret.)
Joyce and Carl McClendon	Virginia Phillips In honor of Peggy Mueller
Charles Clark In honor of Karl Korte	Sharon Justice In memory of Peggy Kruger
Peggy Mueller In honor of Jo Oliphant In memory of Nancy Marie Mills Guidry	Karen White Dr. Charles Roeckle Dr. Thomas Barnes
Peggy Mueller	Elvia Rosales
Michael Corley In memory of George Lowell Clayton, Jr.	Cecilio Martinez In honor of Cecil Martinez
Nancy Payne In honor of Carol Barrett In honor of Susan Kessler	Helen Sumers Judith Davis In memory of David R. Davis II
Phyllis and David Warner	Kaye Abikhaled
Suzanne Huff	Susan Kessler
Colleen Matthews Mehner	Tany Norwood
Dorothy and John DeLaGarza	Dr. Mary Kay Hemenway
Lael Hasty	

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.

Donna Bellinghausen

Dr. Alice Reinartz

Sherry Melecki
In memory of Thomas Melecki,
Ph.D.

Sybil Momii

Carol Barrett

Sally Van Sickle and Mr. Crump

Dr. John Uglum

Kasey Reed

Karen Hitzfeld

Dr. Mary Steinhardt

SCHOLARSHIPS

2022-23 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the 2022-23 academic year, twenty-one students were awarded scholarships worth a total of \$52,500. To introduce the recipients to our RFSA members, we asked these outstanding students to respond to several questions. The full text of their responses is found on our website at sites.utexas.edu/rfsa.



Daeun Baek

HOMETOWN: Seattle, Washington

SCHOOL: Moody College of Communication, College of Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Advertising, Sociology

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I hope to work in the advertising industry helping brands/companies/non-profits pursue meaningful work.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

I am grateful to receive this scholarship. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to pursue my academics and help me get closer to my career aspirations.



David Do

HOMETOWN: Pflugerville, TX

SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Government and Economics

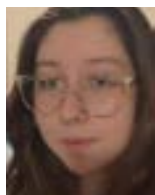
YEAR IN SCHOOL: 3rd year

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I want to work at a government consulting firm. A position at a government consulting firm would allow me to conduct research on potential policy proposals and give that advice to policymakers. It's the best world in between being a politician and a researcher at a think tank. Previously, I've thought about going into law. But I realized I didn't have a strong passion for becoming a lawyer. I still have a passion for government, it's simply changed.

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 researching potential policy solutions and applying to internships, instead of working through the night to pay rent and tuition.



Cecilia Gonzalez

HOMETOWN: Fort Worth, Texas

SCHOOL: College of Fine Arts

MAJOR: UTeach Theater Education

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Transfer/3rd Year

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I would love to become a high school theater teacher and one day teach at a university. I also want to work on making the arts more accessible to students in low-income schools.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

I have not come from a place of financial stability. Before the semester started, I was struggling with finding a place to live and was on the verge of having to give everything up. I almost decided to live in a car, but thankfully, I was able to get an apartment. I still didn't know how I would be able to afford rent or just living expenses. But this scholarship really lifted a big weight off my shoulder and has allowed me to not feel as worried about my future at this school.



Ryan Leung

HOMETOWN: Austin, Texas, Hong Kong

SCHOOL: College of Natural Sciences/School of Human Ecology

MAJOR: Human Development and Family Sciences

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I hope to attend medical school once I graduate. I haven't decided on my specialty yet, but I know I will put in my very best effort in whatever specialty I decide to pursue.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

I am so grateful for this scholarship. Receiving this scholarship means the world to me — the award has allowed me to focus more on my studies and not worry about financial stress. It also means that my hard work did not go unnoticed and I am being recognized and supported by the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association and all the respectful donors.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Dong Hyun Jung

HOMETOWN: Austin, Texas

SCHOOL: Cockrell School of Engineering

MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

Go to graduate school for a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering, then either continue in academia or pursue a career in nanomaterials engineering and contribute to breakthrough developments for the next generation of semiconductors. These goals are very much tentative, though.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving this scholarship means that the donors recognize my needs and the hard work that I put in every day. Scholarships greatly help ease my financial burdens so that I can focus on my studies. I would like to thank the donors for their generosity.



Erika Ruiz Sanchez

HOMETOWN: Mission, Texas

SCHOOL: Moody College of Communication

MAJOR: Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My career goal is to become a pediatric speech language pathologist.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me as it has funded my education and allowed me to continue to take advantage of the opportunities I've gained through studying here at UT.



Cassandra Araiza

HOMETOWN: Corpus Christi, Texas

SCHOOL: College of Natural Sciences

MAJOR: Human Development and Family Sciences

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

In the future I hope to become a labor and delivery nurse.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

For me, receiving a scholarship means that I have people who are rooting for me and want to see me succeed. They have made it possible to become one step closer to achieving my goals.



Erica Buckland

HOMETOWN: Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas

SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Psychology

(Honors)

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

Moving forward, I plan to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology with a research focus on trauma with the hope of working with Médecins sans Frontières.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

I am my household, and I am financially on my own. The benefits of the scholarship allow me to focus on my academics more fully versus dividing my time between a career and being a full-time student.



Evelyn Guerrero Sanchez

HOMETOWN: Houston, Texas

SCHOOL: McCombs School of Business

MAJOR: International Business

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

Through my experience of working in the fast-food industry, I have realized the importance of a safe and functioning work environment. For this reason, post-graduation I would like to work in the human resources sector of the manufacturing and construction industries.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving this scholarship means to me having the blessing to dedicate my time and effort strictly to my studies. Without scholarships to support my education, I would not receive a focused learning experience, due to concerns about financing my studies. Thanks to this scholarship and the Retired Faculty Association, I will now have the opportunity to take a step further into my specialization and develop more critical ideas within my studies.



Andrew Dunn

HOMETOWN: Selmer, Tennessee

SCHOOL: College of Education

MAJOR: Sports Management

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I want to eventually be the President/Director of Stadium/Arena Operations.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Christina Suarez

HOMETOWN: The Woodlands, TX

SCHOOL: Moody College of Communications

MAJOR: Radio Television Film

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I want to become a production manager for television or a floor manager/director for a live entertainment show. I also want to one day produce and create my own TV show.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

It means so much. My family has had many financial struggles over the years, so receiving a scholarship makes it possible for me to go to college and pursue my dreams. It truly is an honor as well..



Alison Roetzer

HOMETOWN: The Woodlands, TX

SCHOOL: College of Natural Sciences

MAJOR: Neuroscience

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I am really fascinated with the intersection of neuroscience and competitive eSports. Top athletes are required to maintain a high level of performance in a volatile competitive climate which can be mentally strenuous. Issues like substance abuse, gambling, and mental illness are also topics of concern within eSport communities that are often not addressed. As the esports industry continues to grow, I hope to conduct research alongside it.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

This scholarship is a huge honor! It feels really validating to be recognized for the hard work and long nights I've put into my education. It's also a financial relief that my family and I are truly thankful for.



Abd Almoamen Keshlaf

HOMETOWN: Paris, France; Tripoli, Libya

SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts

MAJOR: International Relations and Global Studies

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Third year Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I would like to go to law school after graduation. I aspire to become an international lawyer working in The Hague, in the Netherlands, at the International Criminal Court or the UN's International Court of Justice.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Scholarships, in general, are door openers. They allow for connections to be made and for endless possibilities. They also certainly remove financial obstacles along the way.



Clara Chadick

HOMETOWN: Denton, Texas

SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Rhetoric and

Writing

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My long-term goals involve pursuing a teaching career and having my own writing published in some capacity.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Receiving a scholarship is an unexpected yet welcome gift. I am very thankful someone was kind enough to recognize and so generously reward my hard work.



Bernice Chen

HOMETOWN: Taiwan, Austin, Texas

SCHOOL: Moody College of Communication

MAJOR: Public Relations with a certificate in Applied Statistical Modeling

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My goal after graduation is to pursue a career in public relations, working for organizations in the technology or sustainability spheres that are working to better our society. I hope to help these businesses share their voice with the world and build their image. On a broader level, I hope to find roles that will allow me to grow as a PR communicator and person while simultaneously making a positive impact.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

For me, this scholarship is an incredible opportunity. Receiving this scholarship is not just a sign of support from the UT community – it also helps remove my financial burdens. Not having to worry about finances will give me the space to focus on learning and taking full advantage of my time at college.

SCHOLARSHIPS



Carolina Monteverdi

HOMETOWN: The Woodlands, TX
SCHOOL: Colleges of Liberal Arts
MAJORS: Psychology, Business Minor
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Senior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

At the moment, I am aiming to enter the business world in order to find methods to improve the well-being and performance of employees and organizations.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

This scholarship means so much to me, of course financially it helps tremendously, but besides that, it truly brings my heart joy that UT Austin is such a helpful community and truly wants the best for all of its students. Transferring to UT has been one of the best decisions I have made in my life, and knowing that I always have a shoulder to lean on brings me peace.



Anfal Mohamed

HOMETOWN: Amarillo, Texas
SCHOOL: College of Natural Sciences
MAJOR: Neuroscience
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

My career goals involve becoming a physician in either emergency medicine or surgery.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

Having earned this scholarship takes my mind off my financial situation and allows me to focus on my education, goals and future. I am forever grateful to be encouraged to pursue my learning and to reach my greatest endeavors.



Aidan Hudson

HOMETOWN: Plano and McKinney, Texas
SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts
MAJOR: Psychology
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I currently plan on attending Med-School after completing my undergraduate here at UT. As to what comes after that, I'm still undecided.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

This scholarship has meant so much to me. A year and a half ago, I wasn't even sure I would be going to college at all, let alone the University of Texas. When I got here, I knew I would have to work around the clock in order to get opportunities such as this, and it is extremely rewarding knowing my hard work has paid off. Scholarships like these are what keep me afloat at this University, because without them I'm not sure I could afford to be here, and for that, I am forever grateful.



Connor Anderson

HOMETOWN: Dallas, TX
SCHOOL: College of Liberal Arts
MAJOR: Economics
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I just want to have a job that makes me happy and financially able to support me and my family.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME:

It means that I can focus on school and my family with a little bit less stress.

RECIPIENTS NOT PICTURED:

Bakhtawer Ayub

Edher Paniagua



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MEMBER SUMMER TRAVEL



ABOVE: Inn River cruise near Scharding, Austria

RIGHT: Marksburg Castle on the Rhine River

Peggy and Neal Rhea's Summer 2022 Travel Adventures

► BY PEGGY RHEA

Part I

We started our summer travel in May, embarking on a 14-night Viking River cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. It was our first river cruise, but I named it our “3rd time’s the charm” cruise, as it was first scheduled for 2020, then 2021, and finally 2022. Covid-19 was still a factor, but we passed every on-board covid test and made it through to the end! Yay!

Prior to boarding our longship, we spent four nights in Amsterdam and visited the Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum, and the Rijksmuseum. We also rode bikes with a small group in the countryside north of the city and took a canal boat ride. We got a nice taste of Amsterdam.

The river cruise included stops in several German towns, where we learned a lot from the local guides. We especially enjoyed our optional excursions to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, the Austrian town of Schärding, and the World War II underground art bunkers in Nuremberg.

We opted to rent bicycles on our own in Vienna and enjoyed a ride along the banks of the Danube River, which almost felt like a ride along Lady Bird Lake!

This is the only place where the Danube appeared blue to us.

Our final port was Budapest, Hungary. We stayed an extra two nights beyond our river cruise and enjoyed a concert in St. Stephen’s Basilica, the Hungarian Parliament Building lit up at night, and the thermal waters at Szechenyi Baths (with a whole lot of other people!). We were quite pleased to get negative covid test results that allowed us to return to the United States, about a week before the testing requirement was dropped!

Part II

After our trip to Europe, I traveled to Madison, Wisconsin for my aunt’s 90th birthday celebration. Since 100-degree temperatures were continuing in Austin, I decided to extend my stay and Neal joined me in Madison for another week. Fortunately, on the last night of our river cruise, the couple we dined with had offered us the use of the condominium they owned in Madison! It was in a great location; with two bicycles we could use. Since I am a native of the Madison area, and a UW graduate, it was great to ride around and see places from my past. We thoroughly enjoyed downtown Madison!

Part III

After returning from Madison, we drove to New Mexico to get out of the Texas heat, staying a few nights in Ruidoso before heading to Santa Fe, where we explored several museums and gardens, and attended some outdoor music events. Ruidoso and Santa Fe both have some great pickleball courts, and I had fun playing in both places.

All in all, we created some great summer travel memories!



MEMBER SUMMER TRAVEL



ABOVE: Praying Hands Rock. Tany center, Holly far right.

RIGHT: Tany zip-lining

Colorado Springs Birthday Trip

BY TANY NORWOOD & HOLLY THOMPSON

In August, RFSA members (and sisters) Holly Thompson and Tany Norwood traveled with friends in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to celebrate Tany's 70th birthday. We stayed in a house with a view of Pike's Peak in the center of our living room picture window. Every morning we could see the mountain clearly, and by every afternoon the clouds would roll in until you couldn't see the mountaintop. We had big adventures during our week-long stay, the first time either of us had spent much time in Colorado.

One day, we rode the cog-rail train to the top of Pike's Peak, the mountain that inspired the song "America the Beautiful". Cranking slowly up the mountain, we saw beautiful trees and creeks and massive boulders on the side of the tracks. Some of the bristlecone pines were over 2,000 years old! Nearing the top,

we passed the tree line and saw a herd of bighorn sheep who appeared to be posing for all the cell-phone photographers on the train. At the peak, there was a fairly new visitor's center with 360 views of everything around the mountain. Since the peak was at 14,115 feet, visitors couldn't stay long or risk altitude sickness. After 42 minutes at the top, we all reboarded the train to go back downhill.

Our adventure on another day was zip-lining through the peaks and valleys of Manitou Springs, another bucket-list item for both of us. Leaving the ground on the first line was a little scary, but by the fifth line we were pros. It was like flying!

Finally, we learned to drive Segways and went on a five-mile trail through the Garden of the Gods, filled with spectacular rock formations. This was so much fun that we are already discussing other Segway tours. Or maybe buying our own Segway to have an adventure every time we go to our mailbox.

This was a perfect trip, escaping some Texas August heat for cool(er) Colorado. We will definitely plan other Colorado getaways!



MEMBER SUMMER TRAVEL

Summer Trip to Germany

BY DONNA BELLINGHAUSEN

► In July, Uli Beisbier and I travelled to Germany for our sixth visit. Uli is German and we made our first trip together to Germany in 2003. Her hometown, Ansbach, is in Bavaria, near Nuremberg, and we have since explored Bavaria and several other regions.

From the Frankfurt Airport, we drove to the Rhineland-Palatinate region, one of Germany's largest wine regions. It is also an agricultural area with small, hilly mountain ranges and forests. We explored several towns in the area, such as Bad Durkheim, where we toured Roman Ruins.

We visited Berlin for the first time. It was a seven-hour drive – another happy driving experience on the autobahn. Our hotel was located next to one of the many canals in Berlin. We enjoyed a personal, guided tour of the city with our guide, Gunter. In those three hours, Gunter drove us to many important Berlin sites, while navigating traffic, construction, and tourists; all the while, supplying a fast-paced narrative of Berlin history. (Due to a fractured kneecap, I was still in a brace, so we had to limit our walking where possible throughout this trip.)

On another day, we took a day trip to the Potsdam area. We toured the Sanssouci Palace which was the summer home of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. The setting was beautiful, the palace and grounds were lovely, and the views were stunning.

Our last stop was the Glienicke Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Spies (did you see the movie by the same name?). In the middle of the bridge is a color change that denotes the East from the West. It was eerie to walk across the bridge that was the site for many tense moments during the Cold War.

Munich was our next location. Finally, we are in Bavaria again! We love the city (might be our favorite) and this time, we decided to spend most days discovering the many lakes around Munich. All had gorgeous vistas and perfect blue water. We drove through traditional Bavarian towns and enjoyed the amazing food everywhere. Our favorite lake was the Konigsee or King's Lake, located in the Bavarian Alps. On a sweltering day, we took the gondola (in the winter, this is the ski lift) to the top of the mountain, enjoying the scenery all the way.

In the city, we returned to the Marienplatz – this



ABOVE: St Bartholomew's Church on the Konigsee

BELOW: Roman Ruins

square is a favorite location of ours. Not only is the Hofbrauhaus (largest bier hall in Germany) found there, but a very entertaining Glockenspiel and the Rathaus restaurant. We ate there again and were served by a 37-year employee who was old-school and so charming.

We spent the rest of our time in Ansbach. We thoroughly enjoyed this visit to Germany which blended returns to favorite places and exploring other areas for the first time. We look forward to our next adventure. Happy trails!



MEMBER SUMMER TRAVEL

Rocky Mountain High

► BY RUTH RUBIO

Do you recall the first time you heard the song by John Denver titled “Rocky Mountain High?” Can you even think of the phrase Rocky Mountain High without conjuring up the melody? My husband and I made a summer trip to Denver, Colorado, and had a wonderful time. We enjoyed a number of activities such as travelling to Estes Park, toured the Colorado state capitol building (I learned that the same architect designed the Texas state capitol), visited the History Colorado Center to

BELOW: John Denver sculpture at Red Rocks



learn about the history of Denver, toured the Red Rocks Amphitheater, and saw an exhibit of Georgia O’Keefe’s photography at the Denver Art Museum. However, one of the most memorable things we did was to attend the Colorado Symphony Orchestra’s 50th anniversary celebration of the song Rocky Mountain High.

Our rented condo was in the LoDo (Lower Downtown) area and on the night of the concert we walked about five blocks to Boettcher Concert Hall where the orchestra performs. The “in the round” concert hall included three large screens hanging at various levels and locations in the hall, so that everyone can see the videos. We heard song after song written by John Denver and saw videos of his performances. Two songs in particular touched my heart, “Rocky Mountain High” and “Annie’s Song.” A few of John Denver’s original band mates played the guitar and the piano and sung along with the video recordings shown on the big screens. The symphony played with the small band for most songs which provided a beautiful and rich sound.

Just like it happened 50 years ago, I felt a rush of inspiration and joy upon hearing the music. And I felt overcome with emotion to hear Annie’s Song. Unlike 50 years ago, now I have a lifetime of experiences as a mother, wife, teacher, friend, daughter, mother-in-law, grandmother, etc., that give me a broader context for the thoughts expressed by John Denver’s songs. The relationships developed over a lifetime have created a depth of understanding that I did not have the first time I heard the lyrics. I am very grateful for the artistry, poetry, and music of John Denver.

RFSA HOLIDAY PARTY

► Over 100 RFSA members gathered in the beautiful Thompson Conference Center to celebrate the holiday season on Thursday afternoon, December 1. The buffet was delicious, with hot bites, cheeses, snacks and delicious dessert cookies and bars. Attendees dressed in holiday attire, or at least holiday colors! Our annual gatherings are always relaxed affairs, with time to visit with old friends and meet new ones. A beautiful Christmas tree in the center of the room was complemented by campus trees of red, yellow and green that could be seen through the high glass walls of the venue. We were entertained by Hunter March and Martha Hilley, beautifully playing the piano and leading us in song. Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon was a visit by Rudolph, who goes by the name Karrol Kitt during the other eleven months of the year. As the party

wrapped up, many headed to a busy campus for basketball and volleyball games.

Our holiday party is also a chance to give back to our university community by donating to Orange Santa. Many members donated online, and many more brought cash, checks and gift cards totaling around \$500. Our members' generosity helps make the holidays special for the UT families who need a helping hand during this time of year.

If you couldn't make it to this year's party, we hope to see you next year at some of RFSA's many gatherings. Thank you to our members, who give so much back to our UT community. And a big thank you to the many people who help our organization run smoothly, most notably Carol Barrett and the wonderful staff at the Texas Exes. We couldn't do it without you.



UPPER LEFT: Left to right: Patricia Shampton, Carol Barrett, Ann Clary Old

UPPER RIGHT: Visit from Rudolph, otherwise known as Karroll Kitt



LOWER LEFT: Enjoying the party



LOWER RIGHT: Entertainment by Hunter March and Martha Hilley

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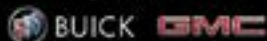
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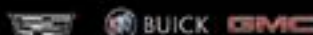
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IN MEMORIAM

This column honors the memory of retired University of Texas at Austin faculty and staff and retired University of Texas System staff whose deaths have been made known to us between May 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. 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 jbfrock@gmail.com

Alexandra Lucyna Blinkova, 90

Microbiology
October 1, 2022

Don Wallace Brown, 78

Government; LBJ School of Public Affairs

Paul Joel Burka, 80

Liberal Arts, Plan II Senior Lecturer
August 15, 2022

Walter Dean Burnham, 92

Professor Emeritus, Government
October 4, 2022

Robert James Coote, 90

Professor Emeritus, Architecture
April 16, 2022

Shirley Frances Hill Crook, 85

*Taught English and Developed Course
& Materials for TECAT Tests*
May 30, 2022

William Barry Crook, 95

*Mechanical Engineer, Project Management
and Construction Services*
June 11, 2022

Dorothy Gloria Hale Davis, 92

Dorm Mother, Kinsolving
September 28, 2022

Anne Dibble

*Graduate and Academic Coordinator,
Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin
American Studies, Liberal Arts*
October 24, 2022

Mary Ann Dodds, 83

Widow of Former Athletic Director
May 24, 2022

Robert Schofield Freeman, 87

*Dean; Susan Menefee Ragan
Regents Professor, Fine Arts*
October 18, 2022

Arlyn Kloesel, 83

Director of Professional Affairs, Pharmacy
July 5, 2022

Carol Maxwell Kolsti, 82

Widow of John Kolsti, Professor, Slavic Languages
August 13, 2022

Robert Charles Krueger, 86

Professor, Business and Government
April 30, 2022

Stephen Pat Magee, 79

*Taught Finance; James Bayless/Enstar
Corporation Chair, Business*
October 29, 2022

Francis James Maloney Jr, 94

Professor, Law School
July 5, 2022

Brian Graham Moore, 87

Taught All Levels, Business
October 27, 2022

Eddie W. Parker, 78

Education Administration, Education
June 7, 2022

Barbara M. Petrosino, 84

Associate Professor, Nursing
October 10, 2022

Elizabeth Cheney Pomeroy, 67

*Bert Krueger Smith Professorship in
Mental Health & Aging, Social Work*
May 27, 2022

Charles H. Roth, 89

*Professor Emeritus, Electrical &
Computer Engineering*
August 24, 2022

Matilde Schade, 89

Lecturer, Spanish & Portuguese
July 20, 2022

Julie Diane Schriber, 62

*Academic Advisor, Liberal Arts; recipient
of the James W. Vick Award for Academic
Advising in first year of award*
July 19, 2022

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Francis Sherman, 84

Centennial Professor of Law

June 7, 2022

David Lloyd Smith, 81

Technical Staff Assistant, ARL

September 4, 2022

Wallace Morgan Smith, 64

Chairman of the Chancellor's

Council, UT System

November 6, 2022

Joe Sosa

Library Assistant

June 25, 2022

James Edward Stice, 93

Professor Emeritus, Chemical Engineering

July 16, 2022

Gladys Mae Sundbeck, 101

Nurse, Health Center

May 2, 2022

Kimberly Ann Wallace, 57

Library Assistant II, Acquisitions,

Graduate Library

May 26, 2022

Louise Warren, 65

Instructor, Social Work

August 18, 2022

Frankie Lea Wilson Westbrook, 92

Acquisitions Editor, UT Press

August 13, 2022

Harold Ayres Wylie Jr, 87

Associate Professor Emeritus,

Romance Languages

June 23, 2022

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MEMBERSHIP

Update

▶ RFSA membership is maintained without a break by paying dues, once per year or for three years. Reminder notices are sent to you by email in the month your membership is due. Please remember to keep your email address current. All active RFSA members receive email notices of our two luncheon meetings, the Holiday Party and the RFSA Magazine. We also send notices of our various Interest Group activities.

The “Retiring from UT Austin” class is held monthly by Human Resources Benefits and is now a virtual program. RFSA has a slide in the program giving details of RFSA.

In July UT Health and Wellness Fairs were organized during Annual Enrollment (insurance plans); one Fair was held on the Main campus in the Texas Union Ballroom and the other at the Pickle Research Center Commons.

Links to UT retirement information are found on the RFSA web page, <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa>, in the “ETC.” tab.

Everyone is encouraged to spread the word about RFSA to friends who may be thinking about retirement and/or those who are newly retired. Remember, the first year after you retire is free; it’s our gift to new retirees. Invite your pre-retirement friends to the Holiday Party or to a luncheon.

Peggy Mueller
Past Membership Chair

Special Programs

▶ RFSA currently participates in several University-wide giving programs.

- 40 Hours for the 40 Acres (September 28-29, 2022, and April 2023): online giving campaign for colleges, departments, and programs all across the University. RFSA participates by posting the link to our Scholarship Fund and requesting online donations.

(Received \$2,250.00 for Fall 2021; Spring 2022 - \$760.00.)

- Orange Santa (December 2-3, 2022): This program requests online donations to help make the holidays brighter for children of UT students, staff, and faculty. For 2022, RFSA will also collect cash donations at the RFSA Holiday Reception. (In 2021, RFSA received \$800.00 at the Holiday Reception and additional online donations.) All donations were used to purchase \$40.00 gift cards for 949 children in the program, purchase books for children at the UT Elementary School; and to cover the cost of holiday meals purchased and donated for needy UT families by the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Organization.

- UT Remembers (last class day of the spring semester April 28, 2023): This program recognizes and honors students, faculty, staff, and retirees who have died in the previous year. RFSA participates by making bookmark tassels and orange memorial loops to be given to families and guests at the UT Remembers programs. RFSA members stay after the Spring luncheon to make the mementos.

- UT Outpost: Effective with the Spring 2022 luncheon meeting, RFSA began collecting non-perishable food and/or donations for UT Outpost, a food pantry on the UT campus for students experiencing food insecurity (approximately 32% of the student population at UT). The RFSA Board also authorized a \$2,500 donation to UT Outpost at the Board meeting on August 23, 2022. As voted by the Board, RFSA will continue to support and collect donations for UT Outpost at both the Fall and Spring luncheons.

Peggy Mueller
Special Programs Coordinator, 2022-23

RFSA ADVISORY PANEL

► BY SHARON JUSTICE

The Advisory Panel, commissioned by past president, Tany Norwood, is composed of the following members: Karrol Kitt, Karen Harrison, Bob Lawrence, Liz Hastings, Robin Fradenburgh, and John De La Garza. Our current president, Susan Kessler, president elect, Charles Roeckle, and past president Tany Norwood also attend along with Carol Barrett. Sharon Justice serves as chair.

Our charge was to look at the future of RFSA: What new programs, services, and activities would interest our membership? How did we know what our members wanted? What were their ideas?

Our plan includes:

1. A review of what RFSA currently offers our membership
2. Within the panel, we will brainstorm ideas for services, programs, and activities.
3. We will gather information and new ideas from our membership.

As a panel, we were enthusiastic, energetic, and agreed to think outside the box...no idea was a bad one. To ask for information from our membership, we decided to have table topics at our fall luncheon using some of our members as facilitators and using a script of questions designed by Bob Lawrence. All these ideas will be merged with those of the panel. The results and our recommendations will be shared with the Board in early 2023.



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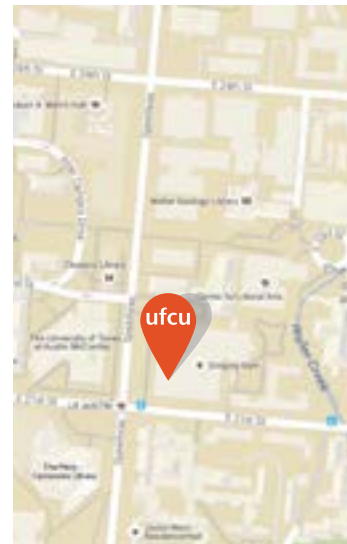
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MEMORIES OF THE ERWIN CENTER



The Erwin Center will be demolished for an addition to the medical school. We asked our members to share their memories from the Frank Erwin Center.

ABOVE: Photo courtesy of The University of Texas at Austin

► My recollection of the Erwin Center may be a little different from other recollections. It involves the funeral of Frank C. Erwin. The service was amazing. First, the place was packed. The Rev. Sam Baxter, the Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, at the time, was the emcee. The Eyes of Texas was played as a long-drawn-out dirge at the end. That is why the event stayed with me all these years. I asked Dr. Ron Brown, then Vice President for Student Affairs about that.

He told me that Mr. Erwin would have loved it. An amazing story about a very powerful man in The University's history.

The building was named after him, and his statue oversaw the lobby for many years.

—Bill Lasher

► When I was a student in 1980, Bruce Springsteen was coming to Austin to perform at the Special Events Center (SEC). As many did in those days, I camped out for tickets with several friends and the guy that I was newly dating. We had our snacks, beer, and blankets.

Frank Erwin had recently passed away and the Board of Regents were renaming the center as the Frank Erwin Center (FEC). At some point, early in the night, the newly christened Erwin Center was lit up in his honor. A few hours later, several people surged forward trying to get a better place in line. This caused some

chaos, and we ultimately lost our prime spot. We ended up with less than great seats. Fortunately, we are still fans and saw Springsteen at the FEC many times. Once even in 6th row center seats!

After graduation, I spent 37 years working at The University and retired in 2019. During several of those years, my co-workers and I drove over to the Erwin Center when it was too brutally hot to walk outside for our lunchtime exercise. We did a few full loops around the concourse and then headed back to work.

How times have changed. Now people “camp out” on their computers for concert tickets, and the Erwin Center has been replaced by the beautiful Moody Center. Bruce Springsteen will be performing there in 2023. That guy that I was newly dating is now my husband of 39 years. And of course, we made our two adult sons attend one of his concerts with us. Their fandom doesn't match ours, but they enjoyed the show.

—Mary E. Knight

► For many years (since about 1988) I had women's basketball season tickets with friends. You could always find me in Sec 37, row 9, seat 1. I knew all the people in the Pennybacker family including the babies and watched them grow up. My friend, Prof. Barbara Immroth, and I chatted and yelled our ways through many tight games and spent time catching up with each other. JoAnna, Shiela, Virginia and Ed would often join in. Everyone knew I'd be in my place. I saw

MEMORIES OF THE ERWIN CENTER

us lose our first conference game and remember Coach Jody Conradt saying: “I know one thing. Tomorrow the sun will rise.” I confess I didn’t quite agree with her.

I saw Hillary Clinton speak, went to a Merle Haggard concert, and saw Willie walk up to join him on stage, several UT events, and buffets.

I think my favorite memory was when I spotted my UT “adopted kid” playing his tuba in the Longhorn Band’s pep band. Or when he was in Hell Raisers, and I texted him: “Are you the S?” But the moment I especially loved in the Erwin Center was when I was in the commencement convocation when he walked across the stage and received his undergraduate degree in computer and electrical engineering in 2016.

Many good times with many good friends.

—Peggy Mueller

► Dean and I moved to Austin in July 1976 for him to assume the position as the first director of what was referred to as the Super Drum, and then later as the Erwin Center. I will never forget the first day, wearing my orange hard hat and some ugly work boots, as I stood in the driveway and looked at this huge round concrete building. We entered through the back, a space large enough to fit two semi-trucks, and there I saw 16,000 orange seats all covered in plastic. There was a huge crane down on what would become the floor but was now just a pile of dirt, and the building was going to open in November. No way! We walked around the concourses watching workers install ceiling lights like those at the Kennedy Center and workers also readying the concession stands. When we returned to the floor of the building, Dean suggested we go “up in the steel.” I looked up and saw this man crawling around at the top of the building and said, “No way!” Dean said I could get a better view of the entire building from that perspective, but I never decided I wanted to take advantage of that view. He did so often.

The advantage of being the director’s wife was that I got to see all the events. The disadvantage of being the director’s wife is that if I wanted to see my husband I

would be at every event in the building. What did I see? What did I learn? Too much to share here, but a few highlights.

I never missed a Longhorn Women’s or Men’s basketball game and there were some exciting ones! I learned from the tour director of Ice Capades that if a skater gained 5 pounds they would be put on probation. I helped some of the performers for the Moscow Circle find a store so they could buy some coveted American jeans; I heard about the contract demands of performers. Where did you buy gasless bananas in Austin? The insistence of one performer that the air conditioner be turned off during her performance as it hurt her vocal cords, a demand that wasn’t met. A popular group who decided for fun that they would spray the contents of mustard and catsup packets all over the walls of their dressing room; a star who decided she wanted to eat with the crew and then complained loudly using words that offended some people. This resulted in the German worker whose English was limited and had no idea who this star was to say that if she were her daughter, she would turn her over her lap and spank her. The performer left the room. Many of the performers were easy to work with and Dean admired their abilities to perform night after night.

When asked about what/who I had seen in the Erwin Center...What a variety! Liberace, Carole King, the Commodores, Kenny Rogers who was very friendly and we chatted for a few minutes, the Bee Gees, a touring road show of Showboat, Prince, Bette Midler, John Denver, Diana Ross, and the first fall commencement and many others to follow

...you name the event, and I was there.

—Sharon Justice, Wife of the First Director

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The Retired Faculty-Staff Association of The University of Texas at Austin provides the point of connection, continuity and communication for the mutual benefit of its members and The University. A complete statement of the purposes of the association can be found in the constitution. Submissions may be emailed to donnabell1015@gmail.com or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes / P.O. Box 37278 / Austin, TX 78713.

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