

The University of Texas at Austin
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting
Connally Ballroom, Etter-Harbin Alumni Center
April 26, 2023
Noon-2:00 P. M.

Opening Remarks, Susan Kessler, RFSA President

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

Thanks were expressed to President Jay Hartzell and his staff for hosting the fall and spring luncheons, and continuing the support begun by President Peter Flawn in 1982, as tangible recognition of how much UT faculty and staff are valued for past and continued service. Also, thanks were extended to the Orange Jackets and Texas Blazers, today's student hosts.

The President welcomed the featured speaker, Dr. John Daly, UT's Liddell Centennial Professor of Communication and TCB Professor of Management. Dr. Daly teaches classes on interpersonal communication, advocacy and influencing, leadership, crisis management, and organizational behavior.

Following a great message from Dr. Daly, the President acknowledged representatives from UT Outpost, the on-campus resource for students experiencing food insecurity. The RFSA Board voted to make a monetary donation to UT Outpost in addition to food donations brought today. Valeria Martin and Abida Shoukat had information available for RFSA members about their important services to UT students.

Jessica Timpson, the coordinator of Horns Helping Horns, a program instituted by President Power's wife in 2008, gave a brief description of the program's services, which include among others: advising and advocacy; mentorship; social events; and financial support. RFSA attendees were invited to stop by her table to learn more about the organization, as well as about volunteer opportunities.

President Kessler announced that through the generosity of RFSA members and business sponsors, 21 scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$2500 each. The following scholarship recipients were in attendance:

Cassandra Araiza

Sophomore

Human Development and Family Sciences major
Corpus Christi

Evelyn Guerrero Sanchez

Sophomore

International Business
Houston

Ryan Leung
 Junior
 Human Development and Family Sciences
 Austin and Hong Kong

Christina Suarez
 Sophomore
 Radio-Television-Film
 The Woodlands

Erica Buckland
 Senior
 Psychology (honors)
 Corpus Christi and Houston

Erica Buckland spoke on behalf of all the scholarship recipients, expressing their feelings of affirmation, encouragement, and gratitude.

President Kessler thanked RFSA business sponsors for their substantial contributions to RFSA's financial stability and to the scholarship fund. RFSA members were asked to consider using our sponsors when they are shopping for goods and services, remembering to thank them for their support of RFSA. Sponsors in attendance were asked to stand. They were:

Mary Hoyt – FastPark and Relax
Vince Martinez – Vincent Martinez Real Estate
Denise Bradley & Molly Sherman – St. David's HealthCare
Megan Livingston and Deb Reeves - University Federal Credit Union
Elizabeth Kingsley – Weed-Corley-Fish

Other sponsors who couldn't be with us were: Karavel Shoes,
 Stan's Heating, Air and Plumbing, Westminster

Business Meeting

- President Susan Kessler called the meeting to order. Minutes from the Fall Luncheon and Business Meeting are posted on the RFSA website.
- The green handout was the financial report provided by Bill Lasher, Treasurer. The Operating Fund Balance as of 8/31/2022: \$34,293
- Actual Expenditures as of 3/31/2023: \$11,993
- Operating Fund Balance as of 3/31/2023: \$33,758
- Note: Each year, if the Operating Fund Balance at the end of each fiscal year is above \$25,000, the Board may move the excess into our Reserve Fund. At its February 15, 2023, meeting, the Board approved Bill Lasher's motion to move \$9,293 (\$34,293 - \$25,000) to the Reserve Fund.
- The full membership was asked to vote for the two candidates identified by the Nominating Committee for 2023-2024 Board positions. The yellow handout provided information about the nominees. Bob Lawrence was the nominee for President-Elect, and Hunter March was the nominee for Member-at-Large, 1st Year.

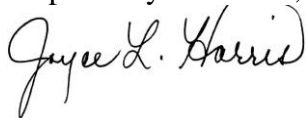
- Eleanor Moore motioned, and John De La Garza seconded the motion that Bob Lawrence and Hunter March be elected to the aforementioned 2023-2024 Board positions. The motion carried. Congratulations and welcome were extended to Bob and Hunter whose terms began at the end of the meeting.
- Thanks were extended to members of the Nominating Committee, Chaired by Past President, Tany Norwood. Committee members were Sharon Justice, Mary Knight, Charles Roeckle and Susan Kessler.
- The Executive officers continuing for the coming year were introduced. They are:
Charles Roeckle, President
Susan Kessler, Past-President
Joyce Harris, Secretary
Barbara & George Frock, Historians
Mary Knight, Member-at-Large, 2nd Year

Not Present were:
Bill Lasher, Treasurer
Martha Boyd, Historian Emerita
Alba Ortiz, Member-at-Large, 3rd Year
- Administrative Officers who will be continuing for 2023-24 were introduced.
Donna Bellinghausen - Magazine Editor (serves remotely from Oregon!)
Sharon Justice - Assistant Editor
Miles Abernathy - Photographer
Holly Thompson - Website Guru
Lael Hasty - Scholarship Chair
Cecil Martinez and Jim Crook - Sponsorship Co-Chairs

And joining the team are:
Liz Hastings and Martha Hilley as our new Membership Co-Chairs
- The ORANGE handout listed Interest Group Chairs. Cards allowed members to indicate interest in knowing more about the groups and/or to make changes to email addresses. Interest Group Chairs are:
Laraine Lasdon - Arts & Culture
Mary Kay Hemenway - Bridge
Carolyn Wylie - Exercise
Bob Lawrence - Foodies
Phil Kelton (absent), Karrol Kit and Alice Reinarz - Speaker Series
Sybil and Keith Momii - Travel Co-Chairs
- Lori Threatt from Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants, who handles our trips, was in attendance. Lori and the committee members were at the Travel table after the luncheon to provide information about the remaining trips this year. They are:
Nova Scotia & The Canadian Maritimes in July
New York City & the Hudson River Valley in September
Plans for 2024 include:
April/May - Portugal
June 20-July 2 – British Isles Cruise
September 22-27 – Utah National Parks

- Many thanks were extended to all the Board Members who are always looking for interested members who want to serve on a committee or an interest group. Interested members were invited to contact any Board member.
- The membership was thanked for their input during last fall's table conversations about what they would like to see in RFSA. The Advisory Panel, chaired by Sharon Justice, gave consideration to each of the comments. A number of recommendations to the Board will be explored and implemented in the coming months. The Advisory Panel was thanked for their dedication to this project.
- President Kessler acknowledged RFSA Past Presidents. Future plans will include more ways to tap into the store of knowledge and experience of Past Presidents of RFSA.
- Next, President Kessler invited Tany Norwood to come forward to receive a huge thank you and tokens of appreciation for her service to RFSA. Tany will be leaving the Board after her terms as President Elect, Present, and Past President (as well as many other positions). She will continue to be involved!
- New retirees and those retirees attending RFSA for the first time were invited to introduce themselves. President Kessler welcomed them and encouraged their participation in RFSA.
- Members who parked in the San Jacinto garage were reminded to get their ticket stamped at the nametag table before leaving.
- Thanks were extended to the Alumni Center's service staff that helped make our time here fun and enjoyable.
- Special thanks were extended to the Texas Exes staff, especially Carol Barrett, for everything they do for us, including administrative support, use of their beautiful facilities, maintaining our accounts, and for designing and printing our magazine.
- In 2013, Dr. John McKetta, RFSA Treasurer Emeritus, instituted the John McKetta Attendance Award to be awarded at each RFSA Luncheon and Business Meeting to a member or spouse. The awardees who received \$100 were: John De La Garza, Jane Garner, Jean Harrison, Hillary Hart, and Liz Nowicki.
- President Kessler thanked the RFSA membership for the honor and privilege of serving as President during the past year. She introduced and welcomed the new President Dr. Charles Roeckle. Dr. Roeckle was an at-large Board member before becoming President-Elect.
- President Charles Roeckle thanked Susan Kessler for her stellar leadership of RFSA. President Roeckle's brief remarks included his enthusiastic acceptance of his new role. He encouraged the membership to participate in upcoming RFSA activities and to ask other retirees to join.
- Martha Hilley was invited to accompany the audience as they sang *The Eyes of Texas* to mark the end of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary