

The University of Texas at Austin
RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION
Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting
Connally Ballroom, Etter-Harbin Alumni Center
March 20, 2024
Noon-2:00 P. M.

I. President Charles Roeckle's Opening Remarks:

On behalf of the Board, President Roeckle welcomed everyone to the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, and invited them to serve themselves at the buffet and wine bar during the first part of the program.

Attendees were reminded to get a ticket for the McKetta Attendance Award drawing. Information about RFSA Interest Groups was on each table. Members were asked to provide an email address to receive information and notices from interest group chairs. Also for review was a copy of the RFSA Treasurer's report.

President Roeckle thanked President Jay Hartzell and his staff for their support in hosting the luncheon. In 1982, President Peter Flawn established the Retired Faculty-Staff Association. Since that time, the Office of the President has provided support for RFSA in many ways, including the luncheons. It is a way to thank retirees for their service to the university. The RFSA is grateful for the ongoing recognition and support.

President Roeckle thanked the Blazers, a UT student service organization, who helped with this event. Attendees were asked to join in a round of applause for their service.

President Roeckle introduced his wife Hermelinda Zamarripa, and thanked her for her understanding and support of his service to the RFSA in his role as President.

II. Scholarships

The RFSA granted \$2,500 scholarships to twenty-five UT students. Lael Hasty manages the scholarship initiative. The RFSA is grateful for all she accomplishes.

The financial stability of the RFSA is due, in part, to the generosity of sponsors who purchase advertisements in the RFSA magazine. Sponsors provide funding to match donations to our scholarship account, thereby doubling scholarship donations.

III. Service Activities

The RFSA fulfills its goal of "rendering service to the university" by supporting UT Outpost, an on-campus resource for students experiencing food insecurity. Food donations were received today. Joffrey Neissen from UT Outpost was at a table and available to answer questions about the program.

Hunter March, a first-year Member-at-Large on the Executive Board, was remembered by a moment of silence to honor his death this year.

UT Remembers is an annual event to honor members of the university community who died during the year. The event will be held on Friday, April 26th. Two representatives of UT Remembers, Abby Stauber and Joshua Green, were in attendance.

Peggy Mueller, the RFSA Special Programs Coordinator, manages the annual service activity at which RFSA members are asked to make bookmarks and ribbons for people who attend UT Remembers in the Legends Room immediately after the luncheon and business meeting.

IV. Christine Plonsky, Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director, Chief of Staff, and Senior Woman Administrator was welcomed as the principal speaker. After her well-received speech, Chris entertained several questions from the audience.

V. Holly Thompson, the RFSA Information Technology Manager and Webmaster, gave a slideshow presentation that promoted the use and showcased the features of the updated RFSA webpage. The RFSA is grateful for Holly's work in making the webpage easy to navigate, up to date, and attractive.

VI. Sponsor representatives in attendance were asked to stand for recognition. They were: Mary Hoyt of Fast Park and Relax; Vince Martinez of Vincent Martinez Real Estate; and Molly Sherman of St. David's HealthCare. Sponsor representatives not in attendance were: Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes; The Covert Family of Auto Dealerships; Karavel Shoes; Stan's Heating, Air, Plumbing, and Electrical; University Federal Credit Union; Lacey McDaniel and Elle Gangi of Stan's Heating, Air, Plumbing, Electrical; and Westminster Senior Living Community.

RFSA members were reminded to patronize sponsors when shopping for goods and services, and to mention the RFSA when at their places of business. The RFSA thanks the sponsorship co-chairs, Jim Crook and Cecil Martinez for their dedication and hard work in securing sponsors.

VII. Business Meeting

- A. The minutes of the Fall Luncheon and Business Meeting have been reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and are posted on the RFSA website.
- B. Copies of the Treasure's Report were available on the tables. The Executive Committee approved the report. Mary Knight, the RFSA Treasurer, was thanked for keeping the organization financially on track.
- C. The Executive Committee voted to make the position of Project Manager a member of the Executive Committee. Documents pertaining to this decision were provided on the tables.
- D. Five nominees to the Executive Committee were considered. The nominating committee, chaired by Susan Kessler, included Charles Roeckle, Bob Lawrence, Joyce Harris, and Liz Hasting. The nominees were:

President-Elect: Martha Hilley

Secretary: Holly Thompson
 Member-at-Large (filling Hunter March's term): Robin Jarman
 Member-at-Large: Federico Subervi
 Project Manager: Tany Norwood

The motion to approve the election of the five nominees was approved.

E. President Roeckle acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the RFSA board members who volunteered to serve during the past year. He asked those board members in attendance to stand and be recognized as their names were called.

The Executive Committee were:
 President: Charles Roeckle
 President-elect: Bob Lawrence
 Past President: Susan Kessler
 Secretary: Joyce Harris
 Treasurer: Mary Knight
 Historians: Barbara Frock and George Frock
 Historian emerita: Martha Boyd
 Members-at-large: Alba Ortiz, Alan Friedman, and Robin Jarman
 UT System member-at-large: John de la Garza

Administrative Officers were:
 Information Technology and Webmaster: Holly Thompson
 Magazine Editor: Donna Bellinghausen
 Magazine Assistant Editor: Sharon Justice
 Membership Co-Chairs: Liz Hastings and Martha Hilley
 Photographer: Miles Abernathy
 Project Manager: Tany Norwood
 Scholarship Chair: Lael Hasty
 Special Programs Coordinator: Peggy Mueller
 Sponsorship Co-Chairs: Jim Crook and Cecil Martinez

Interest Group Chairs were:
 Arts and Culture: Hillary Hart and Madeline Sutherland-Meier
 Bridge: Mary Kay Hemenway
 Exercise: Carolyn Wylie
 Foodies: Bob Lawrence
 Speaker Series: Phil Kelton, Alice Reinarz, and Karrol Kitt
 Travel: Sybil and Keith Momii

F. Attendees were reminded to complete the Interest Group forms provided at each table.

G. Kathy and Richard Armenta will co-chair the Travel Interest Group, succeeding former co-chairs Sybil and Keith Momii. Slides of last July's tour of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Maritimes and the September tour of New York City and the

Hudson River Valley were shown during the luncheon. In 2024, tours are scheduled for Portugal, the British Isles, and the Utah National Parks. Members of the Travel Interest Group were available to provide information about upcoming tours.

H. Past RFSA Presidents in attendance were recognized and thanked for their service to the RFSA. Present were Corky Hilliard, Cecil Martinez, Eleanor Moore, Peggy Mueller, and Ruth Rubio. The RFSA will continue to rely on the experience of past-presidents for advice and ideas to benefit the RFSA.

I. A token of appreciation was given to Past President, Susan Kessler, for her contributions to the RFSA over the years, including the most recent years as President-Elect, President, and Past President. As Past President, she has edited the bimonthly updates to the full RFSA membership roster and chaired the nominating committee.

J. New members of the RFSA introduced themselves by stating their names, year of retirement, and former unit. They were welcomed with a round of applause.

K. Due to recent legislative changes, UT cannot hold cultural graduation ceremonies for underrepresented groups. The Texas Exes will host four cultural graduation ceremonies for LGBTQ (Lavendar); Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islanders; African Americans; and Latino on May 8th and 9th at the Alumni Center. RFSA members were urged to volunteer or donate to this effort by filling out the forms provided on the table.

John De La Garza emphasized the importance of the cultural graduations to UT students, many of whom are first-generation college graduates, and their families..

L. A drawing was held for the McKetta Attendance Awards. Five awards of \$100 each were awarded in accordance with Dr. John McKetta's bequest that the awards be given to RFSA members and their spouses. The awardees were: Bretna Hackett, Mary Kay Hemenway, Elvia Rosales, Jo Anne Huber, and Obie Hasty.

M. President Roeckle acknowledged the enormous amount of work by those who made the luncheon possible, including the set-up team, kitchen staff, servers, bartenders, bus drivers, and student volunteers. They were thanked with a round of applause.

The President also thanked Texas Exes staff members, Patricia Shampton, Director of Alumni of Relations and Ann Clary Old, Constituent Relations Manager.

Carol Barrett, a 50-year staff member of Texas Exes whose title is Director of Special Projects, was acknowledged by President Roeckle as the heart and soul of the RFSA, and without whom he could not have done his job as President. Everyone joined President Roeckle in thanking Carol for her invaluable contributions to the RFSA.

Remarks from the President

In January, several RFSA Board members met with Roger Cude, UT's Vice President for People and Talent and Tasha Beretvas, Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to discuss concerns brought to the Board by Alan Friedman and Martha Hilley. The concerns were about services for retired faculty and staff; and also concerns about the long-term health care program. The administrators promised to look into the matters, and suggested periodic meetings with them. The next meeting is being scheduled.

President Roeckle advised that the RFSA is vital and healthy, and urged member involvement by participating in activities and by persuading retired colleagues to join the RFSA.

President Roeckle said that it had been a privilege to serve as President of the RFSA. He said, "...the Board is visionary, hard-working, and dedicated to maintaining the highest standards for every endeavor the RFSA undertakes." He thanked the Board and said that he could not have wished for a better team.

Installation of the New President

The President-Elect, Bob Lawrence, has worked to foster the RFSA's involvement in the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. Bob retired in 2018 from University Unions as Director of Budgets, Finances, and Human Resources. Active as an RFSA leader since his retirement, he served on the ad hoc Advisory Panel, Chair of the Membership Directory Committee, and Chair of the Foodies Interest Group. Bob is a singer and actor, beyond the Forty Acres.


A warm welcome was extended to the new President, Bob Lawrence, who made a few remarks.

The attendees were invited to visit with friends and enjoy the bar until 2:00 P.M.

President Lawrence invited Martha Hilley, President-Elect, to come forward to accompany the assembly in singing "The Eyes of Texas" as they stood and faced the Tower.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Joyce L. Harris, RFSA Secretary