

RFSA MAGAZINE

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

FALL MEETING

pg. 6

ANNUAL REPORT

pg. 8

RFSA VISITS THE BRITISH ISLES AND FRANCE

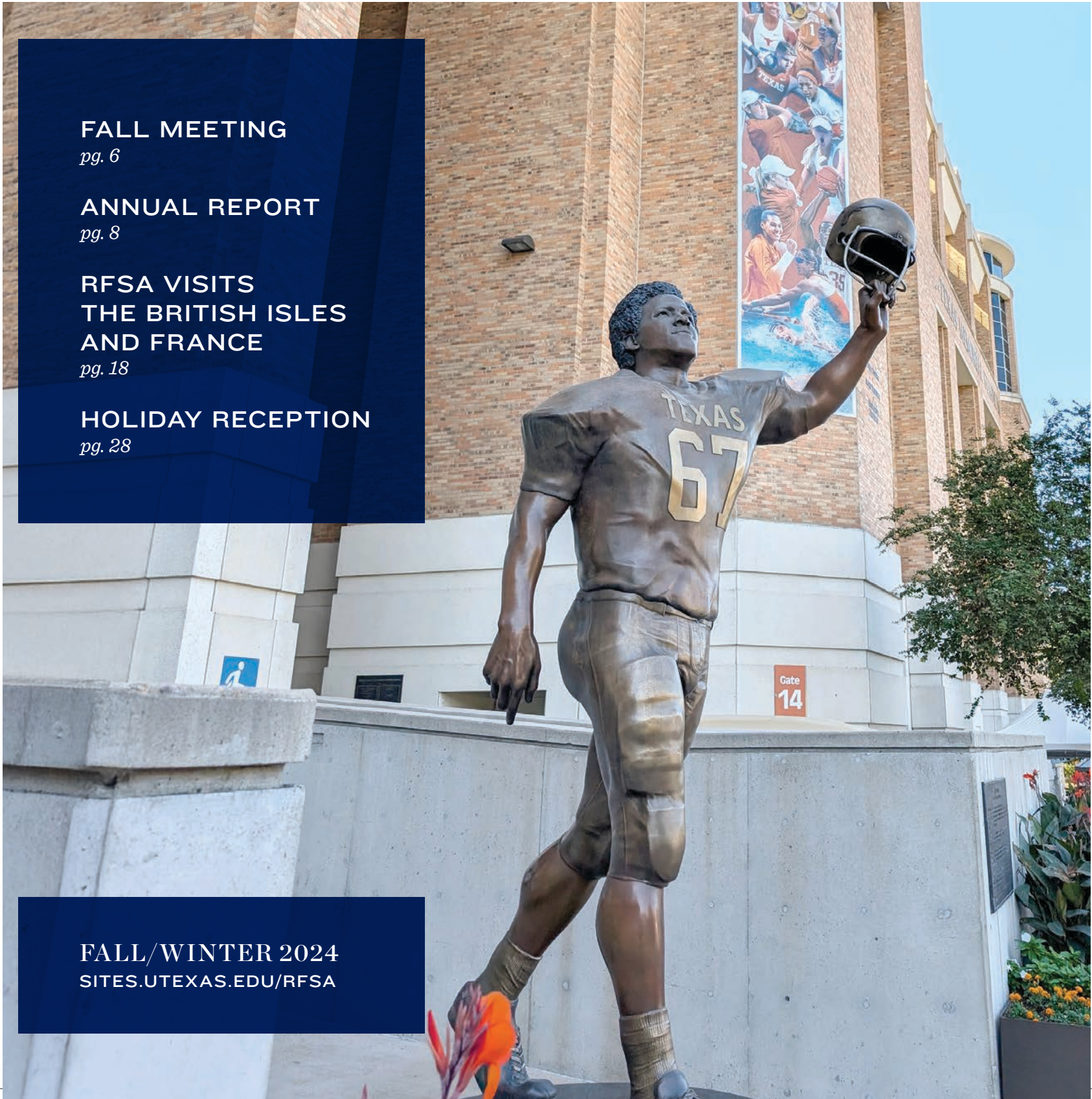
pg. 18

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

pg. 28

FALL/WINTER 2024

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



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SPEAKER SERIES	Phil Kelton & Alice Reinarz
TRAVEL	Kathy & Richard Armenta
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT & COORDINATION	Carol Barrett and the Texas Exes

Cover Photo: Julius Whittier, a Longhorn pioneer and trailblazer, was one of the first Black student athletes to be awarded a scholarship. He was a member of the 1970 Championship team and earned three letters as an offensive lineman (1970-71) and as a tight end (1972). Whittier was inducted into the Texas Athletics Hall of Honors in 2013. Unveiled November 26, 2020, the statue is located outside of the north end of Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Photo credit: Miles Abernathy

Back Cover Photo: From left: Billie Pierce, Robin Fradenburgh, Richard Allen, Jean Harrison, Mark Harrison in Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah. Photo credit: Robin Fradenburgh

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



▶ Hello Everyone.

RFSA is a somewhat large organization with over 500 members. We are a strong organization offering a variety of activities, donation and fund-raising options, opportunities for volunteering, and other ways to be involved with the group through committees and Board appointments.

It is easy to step back, look at what we do and think, this is a really good thing. However, it is important not to sit back on our laurels and think we are done. It is important to grow...important to evolve. It is through that lens of evolution that I have viewed my time as President. What have we done? Where are we now? What are the next logical steps and how do we get there? The Board of RFSA is looking ahead, seeing how we can better the organization. To that end, we have several initiatives in varying stages of beginning, in process or continuing:

We continue to meet with Roger Cude from the University Office of People and Talent, and Tasha Beretvas from the Provost's Office. This partnership is mutually beneficial for RFSA and the University. They want to hear from us, and we can bring up issues important to retirees.

We are in the final stages of adding a new Membership category: RFSA Legacy Membership. This is what we call our lifetime membership option and will be in addition to the single year and three-year option. For those curious, we did not call it a Lifetime Membership because we did not want it to be confused with the Texas Exes Lifetime Membership. This will be announced with further details as soon as it becomes available.

Several committees have been formed:

Retirement FAQ: This group is working on communications with pre-retirees and current retirees. They are looking at checklists, resources, improving communication with employees during transition into retirement and suggesting improvements to current retirement processes and instructions. We will present our thoughts to Roger Cude and Tasha Beretvas. This committee is led by Robin Jarman.

Legacy Membership Benefits: With the coming implementation of the RFSA Legacy Membership, we wanted to see if there were benefits to add (other than simply being a lifetime member of RFSA, a benefit in and of itself). This committee

will present their thoughts and options to the Executive Committee. This committee is led by Liz Hastings.

Table Topic Follow-up: A couple of years ago, we had a "Table Topic" discussion at tables during one of our luncheons. We collected a lot of thoughts and ideas that were compiled by Sharon Justice. This group will revisit that list and look at what was done, what was not done and what can still be done. This committee is led by Tany Norwood.

RFSA Board Position Descriptions: There are position descriptions for each position on the Board/Executive Committee. Some are old, some are vague, some are just fine. The goal here is to create clarity and consistency among the descriptions. This effort is spearheaded by Tany Norwood.

Additionally, we are trying some smaller, newer things. At the last Luncheon, in October, we introduced QR codes for agendas and reports in an effort to conserve paper left at each table. I hope some people gave that a try. Also, we put out Recommendation Forms for positions on the Board. This may help the Nomination Committee by putting forth names to consider.

There are a number of volunteer opportunities. One of the ongoing options is the assistance to UT Remembers. Peggy Mueller is the point person and coordinator for that. There are more recent opportunities, such as helping the Texas Exes with the specialty graduations (quite a few of us volunteered last year); and the Victim's Advocate Network (VAN) program volunteer opportunity that was showcased at the Fall Luncheon. I hope people will take advantage of these volunteer options.

There is a lot going on and not all of it may be obvious. Evolution is a slow process, but it is steady. I am confident the direction RFSA is going in is a positive one, and one that will ultimately make our organization better and stronger.

Thank You.

ROBERT LAWRENCE,
President, 2024-25

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the Westminster Retirement Community, Fast Park & Relax, and Capital City Village, our newest sponsor. Check our sponsors' ads for information about their services, coupons, and special discounts.

Through their sponsorships, these businesses help us keep our membership dues low and provide support to UT students through the RFSA Scholarship Fund. When you need goods or services, please consider using them – it will be a win-win-win situation for you, for them and for RFSA. And when you use them, please let them know that you belong to RFSA and that we appreciate their support.

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FALL LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

► President Robert Lawrence presided over the Fall Luncheon Meeting, held October 23, 2024, in the Texas Exes Building Connally Ballroom.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Sonja Simmons, UTPD Victims Advocate Network (VAN) Volunteer Coordinator, spoke about their need for volunteers. She invited those interested to speak with her. VAN is a community-led first response team, working in partnership with UTPD to provide support to the university community victims impacted by crime or distressing events. Visit <https://police.utexas.edu/services/victims-advocate-network-van> for more information.

Kathy & Richard Armenta, Travel Committee Co-Chairs, shared the three RFSA trips that are offered for 2025. Read their report in the Interest Group section.

Phil Kelton & Alice Reinartz, Speaker Series Co-Chairs, announced two upcoming fall presentations. Read their report in the Interest Group section.

Mattea Gallaway, 2024-25 scholarship recipient represented the recipients and shared her appreciation of the RFSA Scholarship.



Roger Cude, featured speaker

FEATURED SPEAKER

Roger Cude, Vice President for People and Talent. Mr. Cude presented the new HR Service Center Portal available for employees, supervisors, and retirees. Mr. Cude also discussed the 2023 move from original Medicare to BCBS Medicare Advantage and answered many questions from the audience.

Seven representatives from the Office of People and Talent were available at tables in the ballroom and visited with many of the attendees during the lunch meeting.



Marlo Kibler and Patrice Louis from the HR Service Center speaking with Judy Davis.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Knight provided a financial report as of May 2024, as approved by the RFSA Board. There was Income of \$16,441 and Expenses of \$11,306, with an ending balance as of May 31, 2024, of \$35,100. The financials through August 31, 2024, were pending finalization at the time of the luncheon.

SPECIAL THANKS

President Jay Hartzell and his staff for support hosting the luncheon. Since 1982, the Office of the President has provided support for RFSA in many ways, including the luncheon. We are grateful for the ongoing recognition and support.

The Blazers and Orange Jackets, UT student service organizations, for their assistance with our event.

Texas Exes staff for their support and assistance year-round, especially the IT and Administrative staff. Special thanks as always to Carol Barrett.

Complete Luncheon photos are found at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/rfsa-luncheon-10-23-2024/>

FALL LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

What is the Board working on?

RFSA Legacy Membership (in testing stage) is a \$400/\$550 (Individual/Joint) lifetime membership.

Increasing participation, Special Interest Groups – new group suggestions are welcome.

Special Graduation Volunteers

VAN Volunteer Opportunities (Victim's Advocate Network)

Committees:

- FAQ Committee – working with Roger Cude's team
- Legacy Membership Benefits Committee
- Table Topic Revisit Committee
- Ongoing meetings between several RFSA Board members, the Provost Office, and the Office of People & Talent
- RFSA website, monthly email blasts and Facebook (Holly Thompson)

Experimenting with innovative approaches:

- Providing QR codes in place of paper documents; nomination forms, inviting staff from Office of People & Talent to attend and visit with our members.



From left, Cecil Martinez, Bob Lawrence, and Lael Hasty.

Twenty-four awards of \$3,000 each were awarded to 24 UT Austin students. **Mattea Gallaway**, one of the recipients in attendance, addressed the group and expressed her appreciation for the award.



From left: Marsha Kelman, Madeline Sutherland and Hillary Hart.

John McKetta Attendance Awards-
Five attendees received a John McKetta \$100 Attendance Award. See group photo for details.



John McKetta Awardees, from left, Brenda Barron (Social Work), Jonathan Simon (Student, RFSA Scholarship recipient), Peggy Rhea (Accounting), Carolyn Wylie (UT Press), and Sally Van Sickle (guest).

SPONSOR APPRECIATION

RFSA is grateful for the generous support of our ten business sponsors (several of whom were in attendance as our special guests):

Covert Chevrolet, Buick, GMC

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University Federal Credit Union

Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes

Westminster Senior Living Community

New sponsor: Capital City Village

Their sponsorships help provide the funding needed to match donations to our scholarship account, so that every dollar donated is doubled. Members were encouraged to patronize our sponsors when shopping for goods and services.

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO AUGUST 31, 2024

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 UT Austin and the 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.

To take full advantage of membership in the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, members are encouraged to participate in the events, interest groups, and service projects offered by the association.

*Prepared by Charles A Roeckle
Past President, 2024-25*

▶ RFSA MEMBERS, 2023-2024: 707

▶ Events:

- Fall 2023 Luncheon and Business Meeting, 140 attendees
- Holiday Social and collections for Orange Santa, 120 attendees
- Spring 2024 Luncheon and Business Meeting, 164 attendees

▶ Interest Groups:

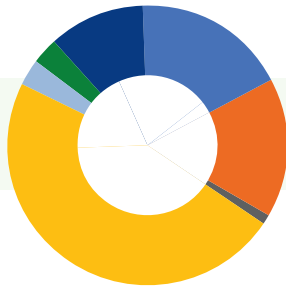
- Arts & Culture – 6 events, including two visits each to the Harry Ransom Center, Blanton Museum, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- Bridge – 9 meetings, 78 participants through May (activity suspended during summer due to construction)
- Exercise – Weekly session, 5 participants (room available for more participants)
- Foodies – 12 meetings, 234 participants
- Speaker Series – 5 events, 148 participants
- Travel – 3 tours, 44 participants

▶ Service Projects:

- Orange Santa – RFSA members made online donations, plus \$741 in cash donations at the Holiday Social. Contributions went toward the university's Orange Santa program that raised \$70,000, including matching funds from President Hartzel. Through Orange Santa, 1,350 children, from 645 UT families, each received a \$50 gift card.
- 40 Hours for the 40 Acres – RFSA members donated \$400 to the RFSA Scholarship Fund.
- UT Remembers – 25 RFSA members met after the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting to assemble 40 orange memorial loops for the events' guests.
- UT Outpost – At the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting, members donated non-perishable food items (2 bins collected)

EXPENSES

\$32,785



■ SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
\$5,284 16%

■ MAGAZINE
\$5,905 18%

■ AROHE MEMBERSHIP
\$120 1%

■ LUNCHEONS
\$15,710 48%

■ MCKETTA AWARDS
\$1,100 3%

■ OPERATING COSTS
\$1,066 3%

■ UT OUTPOST,
MEMORIALS DONATIONS
\$3,600 11%

INCOME

\$35,840



■ UNIV REIMB-LUNCHEONS
\$14,237 40%

■ BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS
\$7,500 21%

■ DUES
\$6,803 19%

■ TRAVEL INCOME
\$6,200 17%

■ MCKETTA FOUNDATION
\$1,100 3%

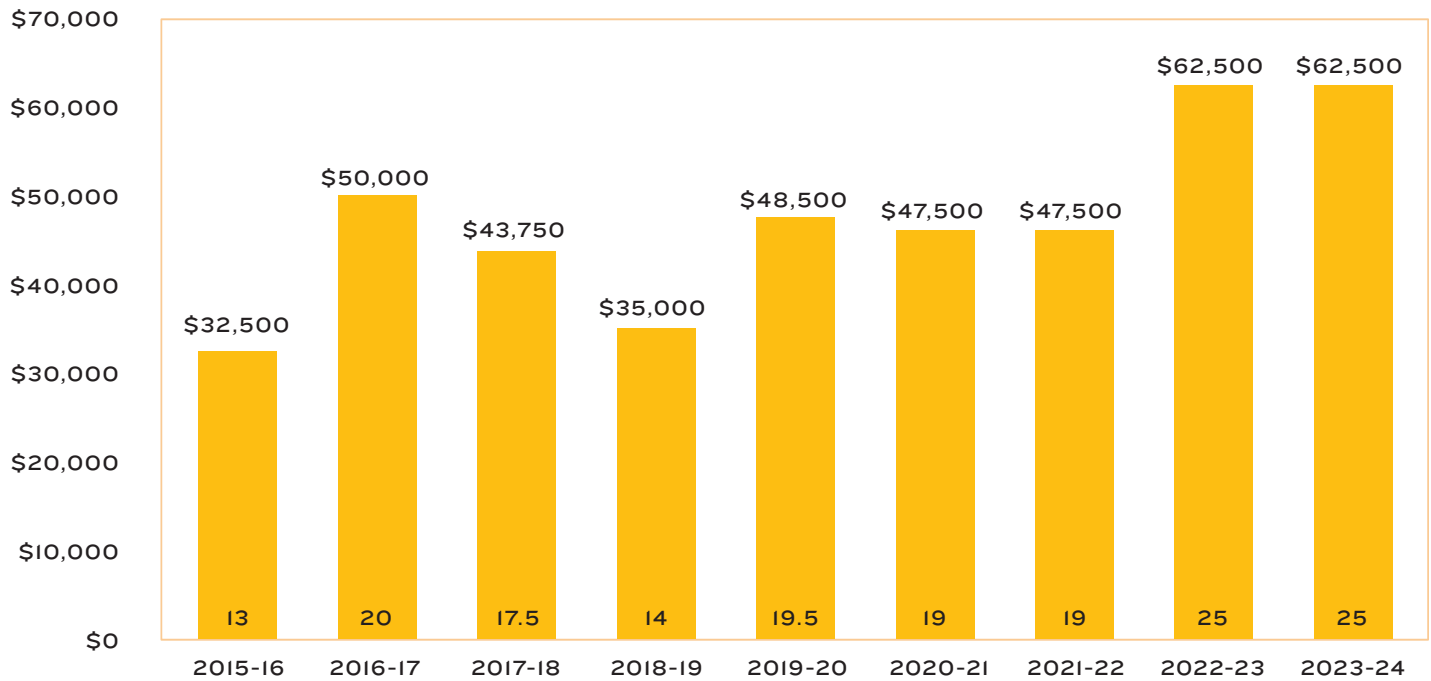
2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

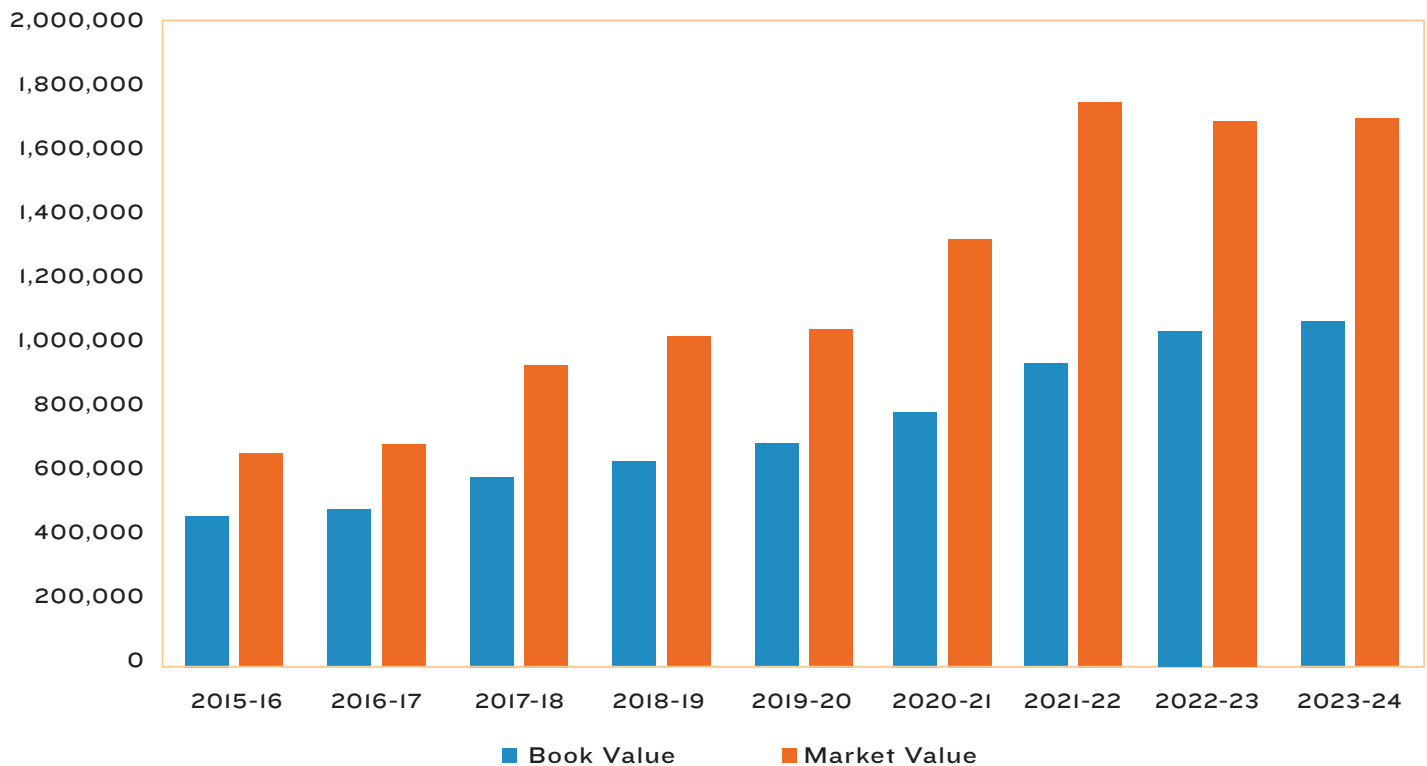
FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO AUGUST 31, 2024

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TOTAL & NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

\$2,500 Individual Award



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INTEREST GROUPS



ABOVE: Laraine Lasdon leads Ansel Adams tour at HRS

ARTS AND CULTURE

► This group informs our members of all types of art and culture events: Museums, Music, Dance, Theater, Lectures and more (both on and off campus).

2024 was filled with art experiences of many types. Here are some highlights:

* Blanton Art Museum:

The Floating World: Masterpieces of Edo Japan from the Worcester Art Museum, March 2024

Anni Albers: In Thread and On Paper, March 2024

* Harry Ransom Center:

Clarkson Stanfield Album: Docent-led exhibition of some of oldest photographs in the world; February 2024

Public Works: Art by Elizabeth Olds, March 2024

Visualizing the Environment: Ansel Adams and His Legacy, November 2024

* Hyde Park Theatre:

Waiting for Godot – Samuel Beckett’s masterpiece, November 2024

* Wildflower Center:

Tuesday Twilights, May 2024

Co-Chairs: Hillary Hart: hart@utexas.edu
and Madeline Sutherland-Meier: madelinesm@austin.utexas.edu

BRIDGE

► The bridge group usually meets monthly, but due to the closure of the Alumni Center did not meet in summer 2024. Our usual time is the first Monday of the month from 1-4 pm unless that Monday is a holiday. In those cases, we meet on the second Monday. Parking is provided.

We play “party” bridge, not duplicate, and welcome new players. You need not have a partner in order to participate. Since we play in tables of four (usually two or three tables, but we can have up to four tables), please contact the bridge chairperson (Mary Kay Hemenway) in advance of your interest in attending.

For more information, contact Mary Kay Hemenway at mk.hemenway@utexas.edu.

EXERCISE

► The RFSA exercise group meets in Gregory Gym on Monday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 am. 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 have been known to get together for coffee and snacks after class from time to time.)

For more information, contact Carolyn Wylie, 512-453-2566, cateswylie@gmail.com.



From left: Carolyn Wylie, Rosie Maamar and instructor Sandy Erickson.

INTEREST GROUPS

FOODIES

► The Foodies Group continues its culinary tour around the world in Austin.

Since our last installment, we continue to go to international restaurant destinations:

May: We went to Yanagi, a Japanese restaurant serving a variety of entrees and bento boxes with teriyaki and sushi selections.

June: We went to Italy with Reale's as the Italian restaurant. This was our first duplicated restaurant in over 2 years of Foodies and is a favorite of the group.

July: The group was at Lima Criolla for lunch, a Peruvian restaurant. We were such a good looking and fashionable group, the restaurant asked for a copy of the picture we took at lunch.

August: Foodies went Caribbean at 512Cuba, a Cuban restaurant in the south part of town.

September: We went back to Mexico at Azul Tequila. This was a more traditional Mexican restaurant also serving interior food selections. This was our largest turn-out; 35 people signed up, 29 attended.

October: The Mediterranean was our destination here. Café Malta was the restaurant with a focus more on the western end of the Mediterranean.

November: We will stay in the Mediterranean with Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet. This is focused more on the eastern side of the Mediterranean.

December: Foodies will finish the year at a yet undecided place but will likely be a more American restaurant. We can't eat around the world without stopping in the US.

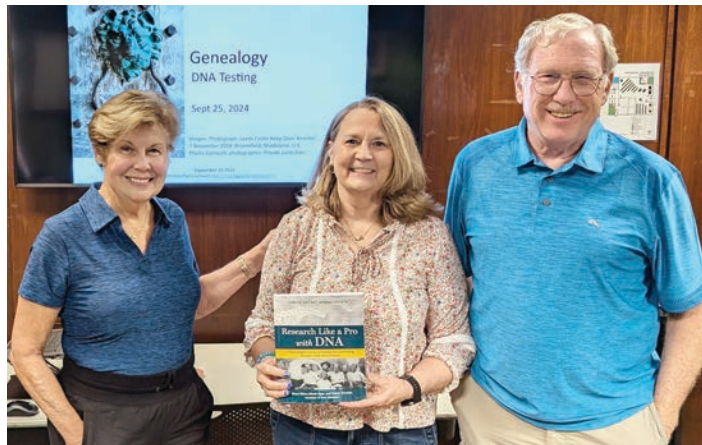
Some of the smaller restaurants we have gone to have started calling in a server just for us due to the size of our group. I can't help but think that they really want to accommodate us very well.

I am thinking of something different as we start 2025 but have not fleshed out any formal ideas yet.

If you are interested in being placed on the Foodies email list, contact Robert Lawrence at rjlawrence1031@gmail.com. I have about 105 people on the Foodie list, with an average attendance of about 23 people at each event. It will give me something to think about if we get more people signing up, but we have not gotten there yet.



Foodies enjoying lunch at Malta Cafe



Presenter Phyllis Zumwalt (center) with co-chairs Alice Reinartz and Phil Kelton.

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES

► The RFSA Speaker Series had three meetings during fall 2024, all at the Howson Branch Library. We continue to use either Howson or the Yarborough Branch Library depending on which is available on our scheduled date. The Old Quarry Branch Library has been under renovation, and we will again consider using it after it reopens.

Our speaker on September 25 was Phyllis Zumwalt, Professional Genealogist. She spoke on "Basics of DNA Testing for Genealogy", including medical applications of DNA testing. She obtained an online master's degree from the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland) in genealogy and heraldic studies during the pandemic and teaches classes for the Austin Lifetime Learning Institute. She does research for private clients and her website is shapingyourfamilytree.com.

INTEREST GROUPS



Hospice Austin presenters: From left: Sandra Frellson, Keisha Jones and Kate Tindall.

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES CONT.

We had two meetings with Hospice Austin, on October 30 and again on November 13. The first meeting was on "Hospice Services for Both Patients and Caregivers", with Dr. Sandra Frellsen, Dr. Kate Tindall, and Ms. Keisha Jones. The topic for the second meeting was "Medical Directives for Individuals and their Families", with Ms. Ginny Erboe and Ms. Shirley Price. Both meetings had excellent discussion and covered important topics of interest to RFSA members. They have an excellent service called The GIFT Project (Giving Instructions for Tomorrow) to provide resources for and help people and their families deal with this topic.

Speaker Series meetings are publicized on our google group email list, the RFSA website, and the RFSA Facebook group.

Co-Chairs of the Speaker Series are Alize Reinarz and Phil Kelton. We regret the recent passing of Karrol Kitt and thank her for her service to the Speaker Series.

TRAVEL

RFSA TRAVEL GROUP ADVENTURES

▶ Our Travel Group recently completed three trips in 2024, including a tour of Portugal, a British Isles cruise, and a tour of Utah's national parks. All the trips were well attended and travelers returned home with amazing memories, lots of photos, and many new friendships. Be sure to explore the RFSA website for photos of each journey.

We are excited to share our 2025 Travel Adventures Line Up! These trips are VERY POPULAR and in HIGH DEMAND. So early registration can save your spot!

Mystical Peru April 29-May 9, 2025

Experience nine days exploring the many scenic and iconic Peruvian landmarks. Explore the sites of the Incas in the Sacred Valley, visit with artisans and native markets, travel by rail to Aguas Calientes, home of Machu Picchu and discover the mystery of the ancient citadel, explore the culture and sights of Cusco and the villages of Lake Titicaca. Don't miss this "bucket list" adventure and destination.

Historic Trains of the Old West

June 2-June 10, 2025

Join us for nine days of incredible scenery through the mountains and valleys of Colorado and New Mexico. And to add to the fun, we will all board three historic trains for journeys through the Royal Gorge, Durango-Silverton, and Glenwood Springs-Georgetown. Other excursions include visits to Chimayo, Mesa Verde National Park, Bandelier National Monument, and exploring Santa Fe.

Treasures of Tuscany Oct. 1-Oct. 10, 2025

Don't miss this trip of a lifetime! Ten days in the beautiful Tuscany region of northern Italy, with Florence and Siena as hubs for excursions, including several UNESCO World Heritage sites. Visit the Accademia Gallery in Florence and see Michelangelo's David. We will visit the Leaning Tower in Pisa, explore truffles, olive oil, cheese making and other secrets of Italian cuisine. The tour includes visits to Lucca, San Miniato, Pienza and Arezzo with explorations of architecture, history, culture and of course – the beautiful Tuscany countryside.

For more information and reservations, be sure to explore each trip tour itinerary and webinars at: www.relaxedescapes.com/groups

Please contact Lori Threatt from Relaxed Escapes Travel Consultants at lori@relaxedescapes.com or by phone at 737-228-3680.

Kathy & Richard Armenta, RFSA Travel Chairs, karmenta@utexas.edu or richardarmenta@gmail.com



Kathy & Richard Armenta presenting at the luncheon.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST IN MEMORY OF JIM VICK, 1942–2023



ABOVE: Jim Vick in 2005.

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

▶ Throughout the history of student affairs at The University of Texas at Austin — from the first dean of women in 1903, dean of men in 1913 and vice president for student affairs in 1968 to today — the constant thread is the commitment to always put students first.

Former Vice President for Student Affairs Jim Vick embodied this philosophy. The Division of Student Affairs dedicated its 2023-2024 Annual Impact Report to his legacy, and his wife Niki established the Dr. James W. Vick Endowed Scholarship for Student Leaders.

“Jim loved the University and all aspects of the student experience. The impact the University makes on students’ lives was paramount to him. As he said in the lines of one of his poems, ‘I go the way my parents did – I pass the torch, I teach.’ For

him, that was the purpose of a University,” noted Niki Vick.

As vice president from 1989-2005, Vick tackled challenges head on through partnerships with students, modeling how to problem solve, work together and strive for excellence. He impacted the college experiences of many Longhorns, especially student body leaders.

“I came to UT from McAllen, Texas. There were not a lot of kids from the Valley there. It was a very big place, and it was a little scary for me. Once I found my niche, it was about getting involved, and it transformed my UT experience. And it was largely because of Dr. Vick,” shared Annie Holand Miller, BA ’99 and JD ’04, and 1998–99 Student Government president.

Described as modest and appreciative, Vick was also a role model for faculty and staff, well-known for building great teams whose achievements and dedication greatly enhanced the student experience. Together they responded to campus issues including anti-apartheid protests, 9/11 terrorist attacks, demand on counseling and health services, facility needs for students and sit-ins at the president’s office.

“He modeled the role of a leader, understanding that students look to you as an example. He always made time for conversations with staff, students and alumni, and could make you laugh, and you could do the same for him,” said Sharon Justice, former associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students from 1985–2001.

The Division’s work today continues to reflect this dedication through intentionally designed programs, spaces and resources. The team inspires every student to live the Longhorn life — helping create the foundation for an impactful college experience that leads to successful careers and lives.

Find out who else is paying tribute to Vick in the Division’s annual impact report at bit.ly/DivisionofStudentAffairs2023-2024AnnualImpactReport. If you are interested in contributing to the scholarship, contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs’ development team at vpsdevelopment@austin.utexas.edu.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST IN MEMORY OF JIM VICK, 1942–2023



ABOVE: Vice President for Student Affairs office team in 1996: (back row) Shannon Janes, Paul Pedersen, Jim Vick, Carolyn Saathoff and Donna Bellinghausen; (front row) Lara Harlan, Lynn Davis, Ellen Jockusch and Cathy Kinsey.



ABOVE: Front row from left: Corky Hilliard, Gage Paine (center), Margaret Perry (right of center), Sharon Justice (far right), and Jim Vick (back row, second from left) at the 2014 Vice President for Student Affairs Reunion with former students and staff.



ABOVE: Jim Vick receiving the 2012 Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship.



ABOVE: Howard Nirken, Kim Uhr Clark, Sean Petrie, Steven Farr and Vick in 1992.



ABOVE: Jim Vick and students at Pancakes for Parkinson's in 2017.



Blarney Castle in Cork, Ireland, photo credit: Sybil & Keith Momii

RFSA VISITS

THE BRITISH ISLES AND FRANCE

BY KATHY & RICHARD ARMENTA

► Nineteen travelers embarked on a 17-day, (June 17 – July 3, 2024), RFSA travel adventure that included pre and post trip days in London and central England, followed by twelve days of cruising with eight ports in Ireland, England, Scotland and France.

While in London, the RFSA travelers independently explored a wide variety of historic and iconic landmarks including the Tower of London, the British Museum, Big Ben, and the National Gallery. Some travelers toured Stonehenge, the Cotswold's, Stratford upon Avon, and Bath, experiencing stunning countryside, Georgian architecture, the neolithic monument (3100 BC), and the childhood home and school of Shakespeare. Fish and chips and local beers were popular London menu items. Some travelers ventured onto the London Underground, aka the "Tube." On the final layover day in London at the conclusion of the cruise, some travelers enjoyed live performances at West End theaters.

The group began the long-awaited cruise aboard the Regal Princess departing Southampton on June 20th. While in each port location, the travelers all chose to do a variety of excursions and independent touring. We would often reconnect for dinner on the ship to share and compare our daily experiences. The ship quickly became a "home base," providing enjoyable evening performances and entertainment, delicious food and libations, and a comfortable place to rest and enjoy time with old and new friends.

The itinerary that follows attempts to capture a snapshot of the many highlights in each port location.

Cork, Ireland - Our group arrived at the port of Cobh to begin exploring Cork and the nearby region with excursions to the Blarney Castle, Blarney Woolen Mill Shop, Kinsale, Titanic Museum, the English Market in Cork, St. Colman's Cathedral in Cobh, and the River Lee. Cobh was a charming village of rainbow-colored store fronts and homes.

Dublin, Ireland - Traveling overnight, our ship arrived at the port of Dum Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland. The ship anchored eight miles off-port, and access to and from the port was provided via the Princess' tender boats. Key sites on the individual excursions were St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parliament, Guinness Storehouse and Pub, and the Dublin Castle.

Liverpool, UK - Crossing the Irish Sea, we sailed east to Liverpool. Several group members enjoyed tours of early career landmarks from the Beatles (aka Fab Four), including Penny Lane, Strawberry Field, the Cavern Club, childhood homes of Ringo and Paul McCartney. The Beatles Story Museum provided an overview of the Beatles' journey to success. The Royal Albert Dock was an additional highlight in Liverpool.



Stonehenge, photo credit: Billie Pierce.

RFSA VISITS

THE BRITISH ISLES AND FRANCE



Normandy Landing Beach, photo credit: Sybil & Keith Momii.



Live Owl Demo Royal Mile in Edinburgh, photo credit: Kathy & Richard Armenta

Glasgow, Scotland - Our ship docked at Greenock in Inverclyde, the cruise terminal for Glasgow, Scotland. Transportation was provided to the city and various excursion sites including St. Mungo Cathedral, Kelvingrove Art Gallery/ Museum, and Inveraray Castle. Glasgow on the River Clyde is a bustling commercial capital of the lowlands.

Kirkwall & Orkney Islands, Scotland - After a sea day traveling north, our ship anchored offshore, and we boarded tender boats for a short shuttle landing to Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney and its largest town. Orkney is an archipelago of 70 islands to the north of mainland Scotland. Kirkwall is home to St. Magnus Cathedral and a reminder of the local Norse heritage. Travelers visited the ancient sites of Skara Brae, Ring of Brodgar, and the Standing Stones of Stenness.

Inverness, Scotland - The next day, we “berthed” in Invergordon and were taken by bus to the picturesque town of Inverness on the River Ness or into the countryside on scenic excursions. St. Andrews Cathedral, the Victorian Market, Inverness Castle and searching the dark waters of the Loch for a sighting of “Nessie” were a few of the many highlights of this charming region of the Highlands.

Edinburgh, Scotland - South Queensferry, our next port, is the gateway to Edinburgh, the political, commercial, and cultural heart of Scotland. Highlights included, Edinburgh Castle, an impressive sight perched high on a volcanic rock

from the 11th century. The street leading to the entrance has been filmed in opening Harry Potter scenes. Several travelers explored the National Museum of Scotland, walked the Royal Mile, toured St. Andrews Links, Braveheart country and Stirling Castle.

Le Havre, Normandy, France - After a final day at sea, our RFSA group was excited to arrive at the port of Le Havre. Several travelers enjoyed an inspirational tour of the Normandy Landing Day Beaches, the American Cemetery, and nearby villages. Other members explored Monet’s home in Giverny, and then travelled to the town of Rouen, visiting the church and site where St. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Lastly, some travelers experienced a visit to Paris and several iconic landmarks including the Eiffel Tower.

Our amazing cruise of the British Isles, with a brief one-day landing in France, concluded back in Southampton. RFSA travelers departed for home with hundreds of photos and memories to share with friends and family.

See our photos on the RFSA website:

<https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/british-isles-cruise-2024/>

and Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131246400563201>

LONGHORN WELCOME

JESS CYBULSKI
VP-STUDENT AFFAIRS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF
NEW STUDENT SERVICES

► Longhorn Welcome is UT Austin's official welcome for all new and returning Longhorns that kicked off with Mooov-In on August 23rd. Coordinated by New Student Services in the Division of Student Affairs, this campus-wide series of free events helps create the foundation for an impactful college experience that leads our students to successful careers and lives.

"Longhorn Welcome broke me out of my shell and made college seem much less scary. I also met so many of my now friends at events!" explained Anne Renteria, a junior social work major from Luling, Texas.



Class of 2028, August 2024 in
Darrell K. Royal – Texas Memorial Stadium.

All events are created to give students the opportunity to meet other Longhorns, discover campus resources, explore the Forty Acres and celebrate UT Austin's pride and traditions. Longhorn Welcome features dozens of campus events hosted by a variety of campus partners allowing all students to attend events that fit their individual interests.

- A record 72,885 students submitted freshman applications for Fall 2024, an increase of 10.2% from the previous year.
- Total enrollment rose to 53,864 students, a 1.5% increase from last year's record.
- This year's entering freshman class of 9,210 is the second-largest class ever.
- First-year undergraduate retention tied its all-time high of 96.7%.
- The four-year graduation rate climbed to 74.8%, surpassing the record set during the previous year, and nearly 23 percentage points higher than the 52.0% in 2013.



Mooov-In, August 2024



President Jay Hartzell (right) with a student at the Presidential Pop-up Party, August 2024.



Gone to Texas, August 2024



Vaquero Night, August 2024



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MEMBERSHIP

LIZ HASTINGS AND MARTHA HILLEY
MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

▶ RFSA was represented at the UT Benefits Fair on July 15 at the Pickle Campus and at Gregory Gym on July 23, 2024.

Thank you to Carol for coordinating our presence at both events and providing all the materials needed: applications for membership, brochures, the RFSA Magazines and peppermints.

Attending these events provided an RFSA presence we have not had in several years. Faculty and Staff stopped at our table, and we had the opportunity to highlight our interest groups and student scholarships.

We had 50 visitors at Pickle and over 150 in Gregory stop and chat with us and take our magazines brochures. RFSA was present at the fairs from 10:00am until 2:00pm both days.

A big thank you to the RFSA members, including the board members who staffed the tables.

TEXAS CONNECT

▶ We are delighted to announce a new Retired Faculty-Staff Association benefit for our dues paying members. *Texas Connect* magazine is available on the RFSA website.

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.

RFSA advertises in *Texas Connect* with a goal of letting faculty and staff learn about our organization before they retire. You can find the latest issue at this location on our webpage at texasconnect.utexas.edu or in the "ETC" tab if you are on our site.



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TRIP OF A LIFETIME

SILVERSEA FAR EAST-WEST WORLD CRUISE 2024

JANUARY 15 – MAY 26, 2024



Tany and Campbell kayak Lake Rotoiti in Tauranga, NZ

BY TANY NORWOOD

► Part 1, San Francisco to New Zealand

On January 15, 2024, I embarked on the biggest travel adventure of my life. After spending a few lovely days in San Francisco, the *Silver Shadow* set sail for a trip around the Pacific. This beautiful small ship, part of the Silversea cruise line, holds less than 400 passengers. During the next 4½ months, I would get to know the ship and my fellow travelers well.

My traveling companion was Campbell McGinnis. We are both native Austinites who have lost our spouses to cancer. A mutual friend decided we would have a lot in common, so she introduced us. Was it a good idea to plan a long cruise only six months after we met? Probably not a logical decision, but somehow it seemed right. So, this was an adventure on many fronts.

The *Silver Shadow* would be our home until the end of May. I had been on cruises before, on both large and small ships, but the amenities on this line were beyond anything I had ever experienced. It was all-inclusive, including a butler! As a retired UT employee with solidly middle-class upbringing, I had absolutely no idea how I would use a butler. But Zhang quickly became our source for almost everything. Her long service with Silversea made her an expert on the events happening on board (“yes, you should go, you’ll love it!”), suggestions for excursions, bringing favorite bottles of wine to our room, putting away our clean laundry, and a

hundred other things. I adapted quickly and loved being spoiled by her and every other crew member.

One of the best features of our trip was a series of special events and excursions reserved for only the passengers on the entire cruise. In San Francisco we had an amazing dinner in the historic San Francisco City Hall, with entertainment brought in from many of the countries we would see on our cruise. The next day we embarked for several days at sea, where we delighted in the warming weather, then arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii. Once again, a special event awaited us. The USS Battleship Missouri was reserved for us. Events included the sunset flag-lowering ceremony, a fly-over of the “Mighty Mo”, and a delicious dinner with 1940’s-style entertainment. It was an honor to be on the ship where the surrender was signed that ended World War II.

After several more stops in the Hawaiian islands, we traveled to the Samoa Islands. I was expecting to see a lot of men who look like the famous Samoan, Dwayne Johnson, aka “The Rock”, but no such luck. It was a beautiful island with beautiful people, though. And then we headed to Fiji. Yes, everything you have heard about these South Pacific islands is true. They are stunningly beautiful. And close enough to the equator so they are stunningly hot. Floating in that clear blue water, pina colada in hand, is the best way to cool down. At least, it worked well for me.

Our next destination, and probably my favorite country on the entire trip, was New Zealand. I had never been there before, loved it. We spent ten days exploring various ports in NZ. Our first stop was Bay of Islands, then on to Auckland. Wonderful city! We did a harbor tour on the *Ted Ashby*, a reproduction of a ketch-rigged scow from the 19th century, and were able to sail right up to our ship, the *Silver Shadow*. That night, back onboard, we celebrated Chinese New Year 2024, the year of the dragon, with some amazing Chinese food. The next day, still in Auckland, we walked around the city. A pro-Palestinian protest was scheduled for that evening, and since a previous protest had shut down the harbor, the Captain and the local police decided we would sail out early.



Tany and Campbell on the “Skywire Flying Fox” ride, Nelson, NZ

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

SILVERSEA FAR EAST-WEST WORLD CRUISE 2024

JANUARY 15 – MAY 26, 2024

The next stop was Tauranga, NZ, where we kayaked across Lake Rotoiti. We entered watery caves where the ceiling was twinkling like starlight from thousands of glowworms. Then we paddled to a lakeside restaurant for lunch and sat in thermal volcanic pools that ranged from scalding to hot to warm, then got back into the kayaks for the two-hour trip back to our van ride back to the ship.

Our next stops were Gisborne then Napier on Valentine's Day, where we wine and dined at the Mission Estate, the oldest winery in NZ. Then on to Wellington, the capital, followed by four other NZ ports. We went on several whale-watching excursions (often with spectacular results), rode on the "Flying Fox" skywire (sort of a cross between a zip-line and ski-lift), and thoroughly enjoyed this beautiful country and its people.

Next: Part 2, Australia to Vietnam



View of the Silver Shadow in Auckland, NZ harbor

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

PEGGY MUELLER

SPECIAL PROGRAMS CHAIR

The Special Programs area includes four UT programs that are supported by RFSA. Following is a summary of each of them.

■ **Hours for the 40 Acres** - Our members donate online to the RFSA Scholarship Fund during this campus-wide fund-raising effort conducted each spring. RFSA contributions are matched by the RFSA operating fund. The 2025 dates are Wednesday, May 7 and Thursday, May 8, 2025. <https://40for40.utexas.edu/>.

■ **UT Remembers Program** - We support this annual program by volunteering to make orange memorial loops and adding orange and white ribbons to the memorial bookmarks given to visitors participating in UT Remembers. Volunteers will be needed after the Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting on April 15, 2025. The 2025 UT Remembers date is April 25, 2025. <https://utremembers.utexas.edu/>.

■ **UT Outpost** - The Outpost is a free food pantry and clothes closet for UT students. Recent data revealed that 43.7% of UT students have experienced some form of food insecurity; and 19.7% of those students experienced very low food security. RFSA attendees at the annual Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting are invited to bring non-perishable food donations. <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sos/utoutpost.php>.

■ **Orange Santa** - Orange Santa is a holiday giving program for the UT Community and supported by the UT Community. RFSA members can donate online and in person at our annual RFSA Holiday Reception (details will be provided later).

During the Spring semester, look for other UT Programs RFSA generously supports. Thank you for your generosity.

RFSA VISITS

UTAH'S MIGHTY NATIONAL PARKS



ABOVE: Colorado National Monument
photo credit: Billie Pierce

BY ROBIN FRADENBURGH

► Five travelers participated in RFSA's Fall trip to visit five National Parks and one State Park in the four corners area of Colorado, Utah and Arizona, September 22-28, 2024. The group flew into Grand Junction, CO for the first night, then drove the next day for a five-night stay in Moab, UT.

It seems there is always a plane story on RFSA's trips. This one did not disappoint. After arriving in Grand Junction and sitting on the tarmac for 15 minutes waiting for a gate (at a six-gate airport), the exit door would not open. The flight ended up being deplaned from the catering door, about 4 ft. tall and 2 1/2 ft. wide, onto a portable ramp. An adventurous beginning to the trip!

The first park the group visited was Colorado National Monument outside Grand Junction. Each of the parks that the group visited were unique and completely different from the others. Also, the Colorado River was always present on the drive and in the parks (except for

Monument Valley). Grand Junction is known for its grape and fruit production. Even though it is considered high desert, it has plenty of water which is provided by both the Colorado and the Gunnison rivers. Before leaving Grand Junction, the group was treated to a wine tour and tasting at Two Sisters Winery. The group then traveled along the Colorado River to Moab seeing the most spectacular rock formations, painted canyons, and red rock.

Moab is a quaint little town with about 15,000 people. The downtown area was easy to navigate as it was only about four blocks with many restaurants to choose from. Over the next four days, the group covered a lot of ground. The two closest national parks to Moab were done on the 3rd and 6th days. Canyonlands National Park featured canyons, mesas, spires, arches, and unusual rock formations. The group also stopped at Dead Horse Point State Park which was high above the Colorado River with breath taking views. By the end of the trip, travelers were well versed in the difference between mesa, plateaus, buttes, and arches.

The group was offered an optional afternoon excursion on a Hummer to scale one of Moab's famous red rock fins on the way to an area known as "Hell's Revenge." Four of the five RFSA travelers opted to take it. The fifth person asked if she should do it if she was afraid of heights? The tour director asked if she had been to the Grand Canyon. When she said yes, he asked how close she had gotten to the edge, she responded 12 feet. He said, don't do it. Two of the four that took the ride enjoyed it immensely!

The trip to Monument Valley National Park was almost 3 hours from Moab and on Navajo Nation. Many films were made in this park, including a couple of John Wayne's movies. The bus stopped for a photo op at the exact spot where Forrest Gump stopped running. Once the group arrived at Goulding's Lodge, they boarded four-wheel vehicles to tour through Monument Valley. As they entered Monument Valley, they crossed into Arizona. The rock structures and oddly shaped monoliths were huge and made of red sandstone. Just amazing and bleak at the same time.

Another long trip was to Capitol Reef National Park. This park got its name from

RFSA VISITS

UTAH'S MIGHTY NATIONAL PARKS

two formations...the white rock domes which resemble the US capitol and the sheer cliffs that looked like reefs and made travel difficult for the early settlers. There was one area, called Fruita, where there were a lot of petroglyphs etched in the rock by the ancient people (the Fremonts) that had lived there over 1000 years ago. The group also saw similar petroglyphs along HWY 279 outside Moab.

Hands down, everyone's favorite park was Arches National Park. There are over 2,000 arches in the park. Technically, to be designated as an arch, an arch must be formed by freezing water, be at least 3 ft. in size and have an opening allowing light to be visible. The most famous arch, Delicate Arch, is on the Utah state license plate.

The farewell dinner was quite an event...the group was treated to a chuck wagon style dinner of BBQ and sides then boarded a huge flat boat that held about 80 people for a sunset cruise in the canyons of the Colorado River. Prior to dusk they pointed out interesting rock formations, then there was a light show which told the story of the development of Moab. The stars and constellations, without any city lights, were spectacular.

Definitely a trip these five travelers will never forget!



ABOVE: Double Arches, Arches National Park, Utah
photo credit: Billie Pierce



ABOVE: Arch, photo credit: Jean Harrison

RFSA HOLIDAY RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

► RFSA members gathered on Wednesday, December 11 for our annual Holiday Reception at the Thompson Conference Center. Our holiday gathering is a wonderful time to visit with friends, old and new; remember those who are no longer with us; and kick off the holiday season. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and hope to see you often in 2025!



ABOVE: From left, Jim Barron, Brenda Barron, Harovel Wheat, Ella Quinlan and Franc Quinlan



ABOVE: From left, Holly Thompson, Keith Momii and Sybil Momii



ABOVE: UT Jazz Trio



ABOVE: From left, Lael Hasty, Obie Hasty, Michelle Warech-Philipson, Greg Philipson and Stephanie DeMunbrun



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. Several 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.

Please consider a contribution – it will truly make a difference in a student's life.

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.

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 12368
Austin, Texas 78711*

Donate Online

You are also able to donate online through the UT Online Giving website at giving.utexas.edu/RFSA2012. The "Gift Designation" line should read "Retired Faculty-Staff 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.

RFSA SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

GIFTS RECEIVED FROM MAY 1, 2024 – NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Suzanne Huff

Thomas and Cynthia Barnes

James & Mary Crook

David & Phyllis Warner

In Memory of Harlan J. Smith

In Memory of W. Mack & Margie Crook

Michael Corley

Joyce McClendon

Donna Bellinghausen

Pam Autrey

Lael Hasty

Sharon Justice

Bobby R. Inman

James Hsu

In Memory of Karrol Kitt

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

► There are 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the 2024-25 academic year, twenty-four students were awarded scholarships worth a total of \$72,000. We were not able to collect all of the students' names or biographies; however, we are sharing what is available. The full text of their responses is found on our website at sites.utexas.edu/rfsa



Folakemi Elekolusi

HOMETOWN:
Houston, Ile-Ife, Nigeria,
Central London, UK
SCHOOL: Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Government

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I hope to attend law school and become a practicing lawyer. I also hope to advocate for issues that matter to me and have affected me as a student and others around me – issues such as housing exploitation, education inequality, and racial and gender inequality.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

This scholarship is another hope of my being able to complete my higher education at The University of Texas at Austin. Without this scholarship, I would have had a lot of difficulty paying my initial bills.



Chelsi Lam

HOMETOWN:
Dallas, Texas
SCHOOL: College of
Natural Science

MAJOR: Neuroscience

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I want to become a neurologist or a neurology PA.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

The scholarship provides financial stability for me as a first-generation college student.



Soriah Montemayor

HOMETOWN:
Baytown, Texas
SCHOOL: McCombs
School of Business

MAJOR: Accounting

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I hope to join the IMPA program and minor in either Management or National Security and International Business. I think these degrees will help me with the skills I need to pursue my career goals after college. My career goal is to work for a firm that fosters positivity and promotes a safe working environment, with the goal of becoming CFO. In turn, I will start a non-profit organization for baseball and softball players, named after my brother. As a former softball player, I understand the financial challenges that come with it and would love to give back to my community.

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Receiving the scholarship means everything to me. It allows me to focus on my academics without the stress of finances. Being a first generation, you don't know what to expect financially coming into college and it was very overwhelming. I'm so glad that I have been blessed with scholarships to help relieve my family and me.



Erik Lara Barrientos

HOMETOWN:
Lockhart, TX
SCHOOL: Nursing

MAJOR: Nursing

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I am also incredibly passionate about law and the business aspect of the healthcare industry. However, I am more focused on fighting for the rights of my patients and the public. I will continue to fight for affordable and practical healthcare and increased accessibility to medication and healthcare information. I intend on practicing as a registered nurse for a couple of years, and then applying to law school and becoming a practicing healthcare attorney. Although I'm not entirely certain of my professional pathway, my passion for equality in healthcare will remain strong and unwavering.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Receiving any sort of financial aid means being able to focus in class. I am not sitting in class thinking about how I will be paying for my education, but rather I am in class focusing my attention on the lecture or assignment. Being blessed with such generosity enables me to keep pursuing my passions for becoming a nurse and hopefully one day, I will be able to give back to the world without having to think twice!

SCHOLARSHIPS

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Arnav Jain

HOMETOWN:
Katy, Texas

SCHOOL: Cockrell
School of Engineering

MAJOR: Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

My long-term career goal is to become a leader in the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering, contributing to technological advancements that have a meaningful impact on society. I am to work on innovative projects focused on sustainable energy and smart technologies, addressing critical real-world challenges.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Receiving this scholarship is deeply meaningful to me because it eases the financial demands of my education, allowing me to focus more on my classes and extracurriculars. This support also enables me to take on leadership roles and mentor fellow students, helping to build a stronger more collaborative community at UT Austin.



Anna Vu

HOMETOWN:
Chi Minh, Vietnam

SCHOOL:
Jackson School

MAJOR: General Geology

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

I want to get my master's degree before pursuing a PhD in either geology or geophysics. Although I'm still figuring things out, I'm especially interested in researching geohazards and volcanology.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

A scholarship allows me to show my parents (and myself) that I can do what is seen as difficult and that I have opportunities available for my future. Soon my siblings will be looking to attend college. To ask my parents to fund our education is out of the question. Attending a four-year university is costly for an individual, much less for multiples. Being a "role model" means to lead a path that my younger siblings would want to take. Affording college is part of this because I want to show them that working to our utmost capacity is necessary to build a future for ourselves like my father had done.



Mattea Gallaway

HOMETOWN: North
Richland Hills, Texas

SCHOOL:
Moody College of
Communication

MAJOR: Radio-Television-Film

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

Over the summer, I came to terms with the fact that I have always been fated to go to grad school, which is something I've gone back and forth between wanting to do for years, but now it makes sense because I want to become a film studies professor! I would love to get involved in academia and find a niche topic in film history to dissect and teach because I feel like film studies have become a lost art among people in my generation. So many people my age say they want to be in the industry in all sorts of ways, but they don't go back and explore cinema history, which blows my mind because there's so much to learn from older films and they can be so enriching. I must add that I want to write screenplays as well, and I'd love to find film publications to write for; maybe going freelance. I just want to keep writing!

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

It means so much! I've had lots of financial anxiety over the years, but this scholarship provides so much stability and has encouraged me to continue my education! I was initially worried about going to UT because of costs, but I now feel that much of that anxiety has been alleviated. This is an honor, thank you!

SCHOLARSHIPS

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Iliana Almendarez

Austin Le

Brandon Bui

Ayeman Maknojia

Rwainee Chaka

Caleb Phillips

Dayanara Chavez

Ashryn Pinkston

Payton Cooper

Marcos Ramirez

Courteney Heyward

Rylei Ripley

Bryli Jameson

Jonathan Simon

Snit Kidane

Kiana Swiatkowski



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ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

► The Speaker Series Interest Group has offered several presentations by Hospice Austin staff discussing **advance care planning** and their programs. After the last presentation in November, we asked them to provide a summary to inform our members about advance care planning.

-Phil Kelton & Alice Reinartz, Speaker Series co-chairs

Whether we are preparing for a sudden medical emergency or end of life, setting into motion what is known as advance care planning ahead of time can make a huge difference. Having conversations about advance care planning can facilitate the medical care we want to receive and ease the hearts of those we love. Families or individuals could contact area hospice providers to gather information about planning for hospice care. Two types of care are described below.

Palliative care is for any patient with a serious illness who is experiencing a decreased quality of life because of symptoms from either the disease,

treatment, or both. Palliative care aims to improve the patient's quality of life and does not interfere with ongoing treatments. Home-based palliative care focuses on relieving the symptoms and stresses of a serious illness to maximize quality of life, according to the patient's and family's goals and aspirations. Studies have shown that palliative care can improve quality of life while extending life expectancy.

Hospice care is for patients who have chosen to focus on maximizing their quality of life, focus on comfort care, and have a life expectancy of up to six months if the illness runs its expected course. Since everyone is different, diseases can be hard to predict; patients may stay on hospice care longer than six months or can be discharged if their condition improves. There are lots of choices for hospice services in the community.

For more information, visit <https://www.hospiceaustin.org/> or search on-line for other area providers.



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Weed-Corley-Fish South
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Weed-Corley-Fish Lake Travis
512-263-1511

Weed-Corley-Fish Leander
512-452-8811

Weed-Corley-Fish
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES

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, 2024 – November 15, 2024. Every attempt has been made to identify the university affiliation of each individual or their contributions to the university community. Also included, when known, are spouses of retired faculty and staff members, as well as notable friends of the University. Any additions or corrections to the list should be addressed to Barbara Frock, Historian, at jbfrack@gmail.com.

Patsy Marie Boone, 92

*Senior Administrative Associate,
Latin American Studies*
September 27, 2024

Mark Thomas Bryant, 72

Adjunct Professor, Communications
September 21, 2024

Roy Rochester Craig Jr

*Professor Emeritus, Engineering
and Engineering Mechanics*
July 9, 2024

Lawrence John Chiappino Jr

UT Guard II
March 19, 2024

James D. “Jim” Dannenbaum, 85

Vice Chairman, Board of Regents, UT System
September 19, 2024

Donald G. Davis, 85

*Professor Emeritus, School of Information;
Editor of Journal of Libraries & Culture*
November 21, 2024

Mary Eakin, 81

Clayton Foundation, UT Austin

Ernest “Allen” Emerson II, 70

*Professor, Computer Science, Joint
Winner of Turing Award, 2007*
October 15, 2024

Light Bailey German, 84

*Taught Freshman Composition
and ran the Writing Lab*
October 31, 2024

William Ronald Hudson, 91

*Dewitt C. Greer Centennial Professor
Emeritus, Transportation Engineering*
August 12, 2024

Margaret Ingram, 81

Editor, University Press
September 9, 2024

Sue Ellen Jeffers, 71

Manager of Collections, Blanton Museum of Art
June 10, 2024

Robert Hilary Kane, 85

*Professor Emeritus, Philosophy;
Inaugural Member of Academy
of Distinguished Teachers*
April 20, 2024

Harry Jeffrey Kimble, 75

Professor, Physics
September 2, 2024

Karrol Ann Kitt, 77

Associate Professor, Human Ecology
June 27, 2024

Maxwell Elbert McCombs, 85

*Jesse H Jones Centennial Chair in
Communication Emeritus*
September 8, 2024

Standish Meacham, 92

Sheffield Centennial Professor Emeritus, History
June 13, 2024

Cornelius Frederick Moore Jr, 88

*Professor Emeritus, Physics; Marian Harris
Thornberry Centennial Professorship
in Mathematics or Physics*
October 3, 2024

Roy Edwin Olson, 92

Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering
August 29, 2024

IN MEMORIAM

Theophilus S. Painter Jr, 100

*Board Member of McDonald Observatory
and Marine Science Center*

July 10, 2024

John Patrick Pedracine, 76

*Scientific Instrument Maker,
Mechanical Engineering*

April 23, 2024

Betsy Jolyn Piercy

Administrative Assistant, Law

July 20, 2024

Margaret A. Rodgers, 88

*Administrative Assistant,
Chemistry & Biochemistry Labs*

October 30, 2024

Edith Marie Royal, 98

Widow of Darrell K. Royal, UT Football Coach

September 15, 2024

Daniel Wade Sharp, 50

Director, Office of Technology Commercialization

September 15, 2024

Gene Alice Wienbroer Sherman, 86

Director, Thompson Conference Center

May 4, 2024

Charles E. Spurgeon

Operation System Specialist, Computation Center

May 3, 2024

Kent Kallam Stewart, 89

Food Scientist, Adjunct Professor

June 26, 2024

Lelia R. Tenorio, 86

Assistant Manager, Custodial Services

May 20, 2024

David Tucker

Library Assistant I, General Libraries

July 4, 2024

John H. Vanston, 95

*Taught in Nuclear Engineering,
co-founded Center for Energy Studies*

June 25, 2024

Barbara Anne Wagner, 89

*Widow of Norman Wagner,
Meteorology, Civil Engineering*

May 9, 2024

Rachel Conrad Wahlberg, 101

Taught Management, Industrial Education

June 2, 2024

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RETIRED FACULTY-STAFF ASSOCIATION

The Retired Faculty-Staff Association of The University of Texas at Austin provides the point of connection, continuity and communication for the mutual benefit of its members and The University. A complete statement of the purposes of the association can be found in the constitution. Submissions may be emailed to donnabell1015@gmail.com or mailed to Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator, Texas Exes / P.O. Box 12368 / Austin, TX 78711-2368.

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