

RFSA MAGAZINE

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

FALL MEETING

pg. 6

ANNUAL REPORT

pg. 8

RFSA VISITS NOVA SCOTIA

pg. 18

HOLIDAY RECEPTION

pg. 28

FALL/WINTER 2023

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



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SPEAKER SERIES	Phil Kelton, Alice Reinarz & Karrol Kitt
TRAVEL	Sybil & Keith Momii
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT & COORDINATION	Carol Barrett and the Texas Exes

*Cover Photo: Barbara Jordan Statue. Photo by Miles Abernathy
Back Cover Photo: 24th/Whitis Kiosk. Photo by Miles Abernathy*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



► The celebrated playwright and critic George Bernard Shaw once remarked, “Progress is impossible without change.” By that measure, your Retired Faculty-Staff Association continues to progress. Seeking ways to become more effective, we have made several changes on our board since last year. As you may know, Carol Barrett is the staff member assigned by the Texas Exes to be our administrative support. Carol does a superb job, but our enthusiastic activity can be a bit overwhelming. Thus, we have established the new voluntary position of Project Manager to assist her. We are very fortunate to have Tany Norwood, an RFSAs Past President, in this new position. Another important change was the establishment of a Chair of Special Programs. Peggy Mueller has been doing splendid work handling our involvement with important programs such as Orange Santa, UT Outpost, and others. The new title clarifies her role on the RFSAs board. A further change on the board is the appointment of two new Co-Chairs of the Arts and Culture Interest Group. Laraine Lasdon had done exemplary work as chair of that group. It is our good fortune Hillary Hart and Madeline Sutherland-Meier have agreed to succeed her. One of the joys that comes with participation in the RFSAs is the opportunity to work with wonderful colleagues. I am sincerely grateful to the members of our executive committee and board for all they do. As you read this issue of our RFSAs magazine, you will gain an insight into just how much they are accomplishing. You will also see our annual report, for which I must thank our immediate Past President, Susan Kessler.

Writing of our board, I do need to mention some sad news. In October, Hunter March passed away. Hunter, who was a music faculty colleague, was serving as a member-at-large on the RFSAs executive committee. Several weeks later, we lost Jim Vick, another cherished colleague who had previously served on the RFSAs executive committee. They both will be greatly missed.

Above, I mentioned the enthusiastic activity of the RFSAs. We do our best to keep you informed of all the opportunities offered by our association. But we are limited by resources and institutional constraints in how frequently we can broadcast information to the full membership. The best timely source of information about what we offer is the RFSAs website. Our website manager is Holly Thompson and she does outstanding work maintaining the site. I urge you to view the website regularly to keep abreast of what is happening. And if you have ideas or suggestions about RFSAs activities, please do not hesitate to send them to us.

The Retired Faculty-Staff Association is vital and healthy. And we provide valuable services to both retirees and the university. But there is strength in numbers. Our ability to provide service and activities—and to influence—can grow if we increase our numbers. I urge you to persuade colleagues who are retired—or who are planning to retire—to join the RFSAs. For new retirees, first-year membership is free. And, thereafter, annual dues are nominal. With your help, we can accomplish even more.

CHARLES A. ROECKLE,
President, 2023-24

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS



► Our sponsors have been solicited because of their excellent reputations for selling the best goods and providing the best service to customers.

Many of them are family businesses that have been in our community for a long time. These include the Covert family of auto dealerships, the Strand family of Stan's Heating and Cooling, the Ravel family of Karavel Shoes, our new sponsor, Vince Martinez, Vince Martinez Realty, and the Fish family of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Homes. Our other sponsors, although not family owned, have a long-time reputation for giving wonderful service to the community.

They are St. David's HealthCare, University Federal Credit Union, the Westminster Retirement Community and Fast Park & Relax. 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 MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ President Charles Roeckle presided over the Fall Luncheon Meeting, held on October 17, 2023, in the Connally Ballroom.

THANKS were expressed to:

President Jay Hartzell and his staff for their support in hosting our luncheon. Since 1982, when President Peter Flawn established the RFSA, the Office of the President has provided support for RFSA in many ways, including the semiannual luncheons.

Our student hosts – members of the Orange Jackets and Texas Blazers.

The Texas Exes for everything that they do for us, including administrative, support, the beautiful facilities, maintaining our accounts, and the design and printing of our magazine.

Patricia Shrampton, Texas Exes Director of Alumni Relations, for her help with event details, and the Alumni Center staff for their preparation of the room, food, and drink.



Bob Bursey, Executive and Artistic Director of Texas Performing Arts and Charles Roeckle, President

For the first time, twenty-five scholarships were awarded this year. **Devin Wallets**, a 2023-24 RFSA scholarship awardee, addressed the group with well-received remarks.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Bob Bursey, the Executive and Artistic Director of Texas Performing Arts, and Associate Professor of Practice in Arts Management and Administration in the College of Fine Arts, was the guest speaker. Mr. Bursey shared an informative slide show about Texas Performing Arts and shared his philosophy about a diversity of arts and events in Bass Concert Hall. He closed with questions from the audience.

GRATITUDE from entire organization to our business sponsors for their generous support (several of whom were in attendance as our special guests). Their sponsorships help provide the funding needed to match donations to our scholarship account, so that every dollar given to the Scholarship Fund is doubled.

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L-R: Lori Threatt, travel consultant; Sybil and Keith Momii, Travel Co-Chairs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the dedication and hard work of the RFSA board members who volunteer to serve. *The complete list of 2023-24 Board Members is found on page 2 of this issue.*

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

Complete Luncheon photos are found at <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/fall-luncheon-10-17-2023/>

FALL LUNCHEON MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

BUSINESS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINANCIAL REPORT - Mary Knight, Treasurer, gave a summary of RFSA finances as of August 31, 2023

Income of \$23,091; Expenses of \$27,419; Ending Balance of \$29,965

Members were urged to persuade colleagues who are retired, or about to retire, to join the RFSA.

GROUP TRAVEL options were available at the Travel table.

GRATITUDE to the RFSA Members who contribute to our Scholarship Fund, our most impactful service project. We were able to provide twenty-five scholarships this year.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION of Carol Barrett as our institutional support and “the most important person for the RFSA” for more than twenty years. See article, in this issue, of Carol’s 50 years of service as a Texas Exes staff member.



Jean Harrison and Charles Roeckle, President



L-R: Jumoke Ewedemi, Carol Obianwu



Joyce’s family and friends: Front row L-R: Cheryl Harris, (daughter), Vicki McKain (friend); Second row: L-R: Joyce Harris, RFSAs Secretary, Sandra Brown (spouse of RFSAs member & friend)



L-R: Cecil Martinez, Phil Kelton, Karen Kelton, Cyndee Barnes, and Thomas Barnes



McKetta Award recipients, L-R: Carolyn Coleman, Financial Affairs; Michael Becker, Electrical & Computer Engineering; Billie Pierce, Psychology; Margaret Borden, Graduate Studies; and Barbara Anderson, Social Work

ANNOUNCEMENT of the John McKetta \$100 Attendance Award recipients:

Margaret Borden, Graduate Studies

Billie Pierce, Psychology

Carolyn Coleman, Financial Affairs

Michael Becker, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Barbara Anderson, Social Work

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY FOR RFSA MAGAZINE

FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 - AUGUST 31, 2023

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.

RFSA MEMBERS, 2022-2023: 461

▶ Events:

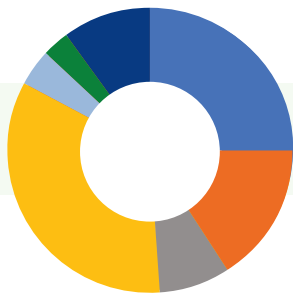
- Fall, 2022 Luncheon and business meeting, 119 attendees
- Spring, 2023 Luncheon and business meeting, 138 attendees
- Holiday Social and collections for Orange Santa, 130 attendees

▶ Interest Groups:

- Arts & Culture – 4 docent-led museum tours for about 16 participants, 2 meetings, ongoing information throughout the year.
- Bridge – 12 meetings with 109 participants.
- Exercise – Weekly sessions, up to 5 participants each week
- Foodies – 12 events, 205 participants
- Speaker Series – 6 events, 83 participants
- Travel – 4 trips, 74 participants

▶ Service Projects:

- *Orange Santa:*
RFSA members made online donations plus \$490 in cash donations at Holiday Social; assisted 1,186 children in 501 families with \$30 gift cards
- *40 Hours for the Forty Acres:*
In 2 drives, members donated to RFSA Scholarship Fund \$2,080, plus match by RFSA Operating Account for total of \$4,160
- *UT Remembers:*
13 members assembled ribbons and bookmarks for ceremony
- *RFSA Scholarship Fund:*
donations matched by RFSA Operating Account: \$10,000
- *UT Outpost:*
donated \$2500, plus food donation drive during Spring 2023 luncheon
- *Horns Helping Horns:*
Invited members to mentor UT students



EXPENSES \$27,419

- SOCIAL FUNCTIONS
\$4,373 16%
- MAGAZINES
\$6,748 25%
- TEXAS CONNECT AD
\$2,250 8%
- SCHOLARSHIP MATCH
\$9,293 34%
- MCKETTA AWARDS
\$1,000 4%
- OPERATING COSTS
\$905 3%
- UT OUTPOST,
MEMORIALS DONATIONS
\$2,850 10%



INCOME \$23,091

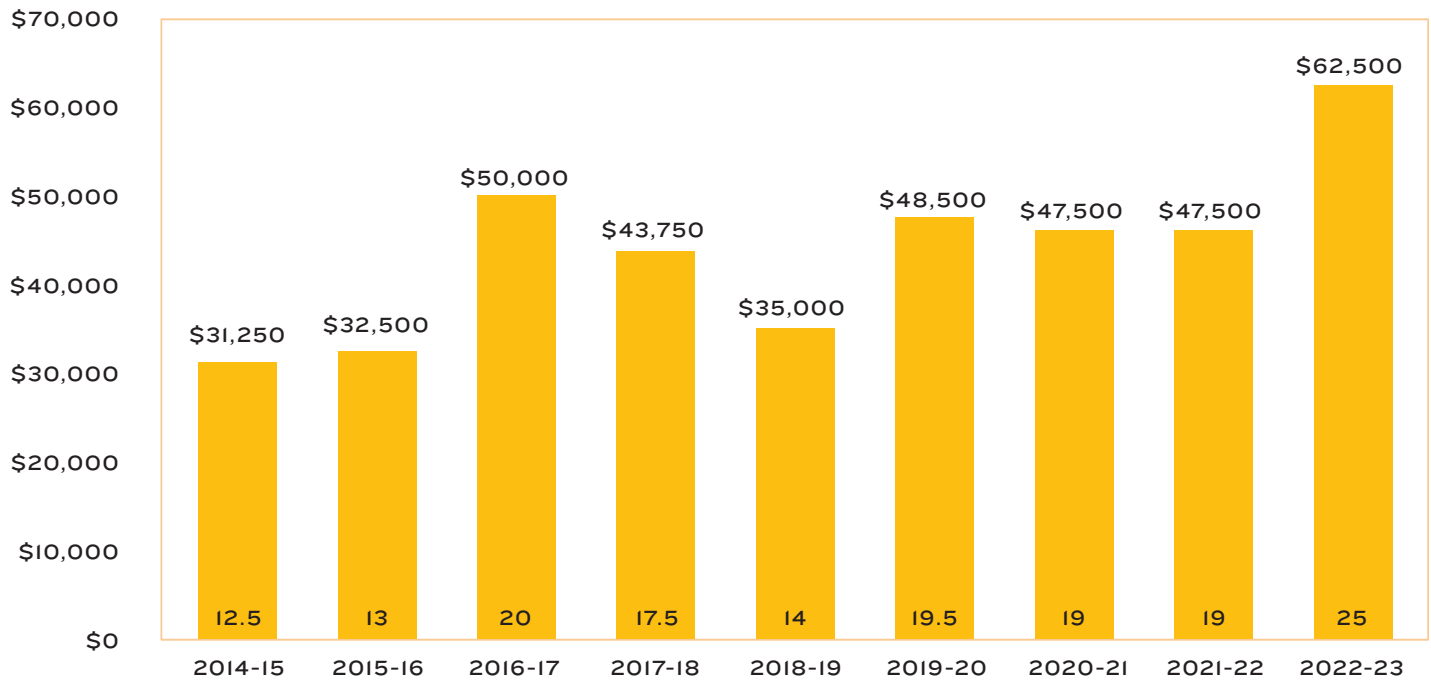
- BUSINESS SPONSORSHIPS
\$7,000 30%
- DUES
\$7,691 33%
- TRAVEL INCOME
\$7,400 32%
- MCKETTA FOUNDATION
\$1,000 5%

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

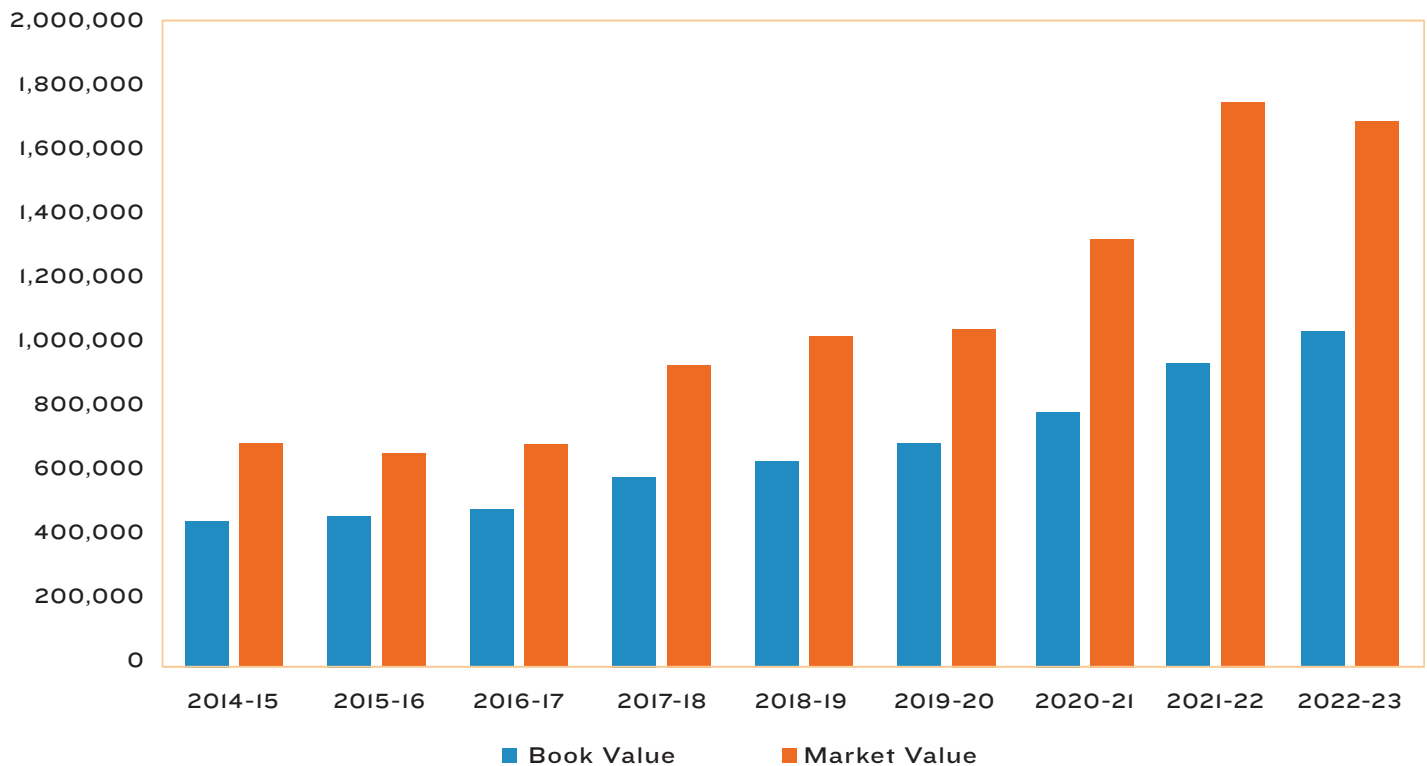
SUMMARY FOR RFSA MAGAZINE
FISCAL YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 - AUGUST 31, 2023

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD TOTAL & NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

\$2,500 Individual Award



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INTEREST GROUPS



ABOVE: RFSa Bridge in Alumni Center, L-R: Phil Kelton, Robert Luedtke, John Lacy, in August

ARTS AND CULTURE

► Thank you, Laraine Lasdon, for your past leadership!

Madeline Sutherland-Meier and I are excited to be the new co-chairs of this Interest Group. Laraine Lasdon will be a hard act to follow, but we will try. Austin is so rich in Arts institutions, we could visit an arts venue every week, at least, but we hope to do one event every month. The year 2024 brings a truly amazing group of arts events to Austin.

Check out the Interest Groups and Activities tab on the RFSa website (<https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>) to see what's coming. If you have an interest in music, painting and sculpture, theatre, and other arts exhibitions, you have many, many choices. Madeline and I will poll all interested members to determine our calendar based on your interests.

For more information, contact Hillary Hart at 512-423-5022 (hart@utexas.edu) or Madeline Sutherland-Meier at 512-565-0906 (madelinesm@austin.utexas.edu)

BRIDGE

► The Bridge group continues playing monthly at the Alumni Center. Our usual time is the first Monday of the month from 1-4 pm. Parking is provided.

We play "party" bridge, not duplicate, and welcome new players. You need not have a partner to participate. Since we play on 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 mk.hemenway@utexas.edu.

EXERCISE

► The RFSa exercise group meets in Gregory Gym on Monday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 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.

INTEREST GROUPS

FOODIES

The Year in Review

► Foodies has been growing, the number of people coming to a lunch or dinner gathering always fluctuates. We have had as few as 4 at a lunch to as many as 26. Days and places around the city change to accommodate as many as possible, realizing that not everyone can attend every event (although we have our regulars...you know who you are...heh).

Here is what we did in 2023:

January: Galaxy Café South

February: Trudy's Northern Star

March: Rudy's BBQ (Central)

April: Llama Kid (Central/SE), Peruvian Food

May: Llama Kid (only 4 people could make it in April and it was good enough to go to again for a larger group). Llama Kid is now called Llama Queen

June: Hyde Park Bar & Grille (Central)

July: Jack Allen's Kitchen (North)

August: El Raval for dinner (Central), Tapas, Spanish with influence from Barcelona in particular

September: Opie's BBQ in Spicewood, TX (Southwest)

October: Reale's Italian Café (Northwest)

November: French Quarter Grille (North)

December Event: Trying something different for December. In Dripping Springs, there is the Texas Hill Country Olive Oil Company. They do tastings of the olive oils they press, along with balsamic tastings. We have arranged a private tasting which will also include a light lunch.

If you want to be added to the Foodie's email contact list, send an email to Robert (Bob) Lawrence at rjlawrence1031@gmail.com.

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES

► The Speaker Series met in October and November with two excellent speakers. We had those meetings at the Yarborough Branch Library at 2200 Hancock since the Howson Library continued to have schedule conflicts and the Old Quarry Library was temporarily closed. The Yarborough Library is an excellent venue so we will continue to use it when it is the best fit for the schedule. Note that interested RFSA members should pay careful attention to each announcement for each meeting's specific location.



Foodies-dinner at El Raval



Dr. Bergin addressing an absorbed audience.

INTEREST GROUPS

RFSA SPEAKER SERIES CONT.

The meeting on October 18 was with Mr. Adam Wright, Chief of Staff for UTIMCO, the University of Texas Investment Management Company. UTIMCO is responsible for investing UT Austin's endowments and for other components of the UT System. His overview of UTIMCO's history,



Adam Wright speaking about UTIMCO

organizational structure, and investment philosophy was most interesting. RFSA's scholarship fund is invested with UTIMCO and our scholarship awards are dependent on the income generated by these investments.

The meeting on November 15 was with Dr. Barbara Bergin, a recently retired orthopedic surgeon and self-proclaimed

renaissance woman. Her talk "Your Pathway to Your Granny's Gait" was both very informative and humorous and focused on tips for healthy movement habits. We had an excellent turnout for this talk. Dr. Bergin does talks on other health-related topics, so we intend to have her back in the near future.

The Speaker Series continues to publicize events via our google group in addition to the RFSA website and the bi-monthly RFSA informational emails. Anyone can get on our google group email list by sending a request to one of the Speaker Series co-chairs.

Speaker Series co-chairs are Alice Reinarz (areinarz@tam.u.edu), Phil Kelton (pwkelton@gmail.com), and Karrol Kitt (kkitt@austin.utexas.edu).

TRAVEL

RFSA TRAVEL GROUP ADVENTURES IN 2024

► Our Travel Group recently wrapped up a fantastic series of 2023 trips, including tours of Iceland (two groups); Nova Scotia & The Canadian Maritimes; then New York City & the Hudson River Valley. All trips were well attended, and our travelers experienced beautiful sites, fantastic food, and enlightening excursions. It's been a great year for travel adventures!

We are currently registering RFSA members and guests for three exciting trips in 2024. Please contact Lori Threatt from Relaxed Escapes Travel

Consultants at lori@relaxedescapes.com or phone her at (737) 228-3680 for details and registration information.

EXPERIENCE PORTUGAL April 17-28, 2024

11 days from Lisbon and back to Lisbon on a Globus land tour! As the brochure says "What shoes should you pack for walking on sunshine? The pair best suited for 1,000 miles of shoreline and 300 days of sunlit skies per year." This tour leads you past rolling olive farms, through scenic cork groves, and down winding Moorish alleyways to the country's signature delights.

In its coastal villages and medieval towns grilled seafood fills the tables, sweet port fills the glasses, and the soulful sounds of fado music fill the air. This enlightening tour of Portugal introduces you to the brightest sights of the country.

CRUISING THE BRITISH ISLES June 20-July 2, 2024

12 nights and 8 ports on the fabulous Regal Princess ship! Airfare, pre- and post- hotel stays will be offered. Explore the British Isles with Princess, awarded "Best Cruise Line in Europe" and select a variety of optional excursions. Find lots to love in the charming countryside and storybook castles. Discover timeless traditions found in the heart of each town. Listen to traditional tunes at a local venue in Ireland or Beatles songs at a pub in England. Experience age-old traditions and an opportunity to tour the landing beaches of Normandy during this 80th anniversary year of D-Day.

EXPLORING UTAH'S MIGHTY NATIONAL PARKS September 22-27, 2024

Featuring 7 days and 6 nights, including 5 nights in Moab, Utah! Highlights include travel to the Arches National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, a Canyonlands by Night cruise, Monument Valley, and a Colorado Wine Tasting. This adventure is hosted by Premier World Discovery.

The next Chairperson's term will begin in April 2024. If you are interested in joining our enthusiastic committee or offer your name as a possible Chairperson, let any of our members know! Current members are Sybil & Keith Momii (Co-Chairs), Kathleen Armenta, Robin Fradenburgh, Karen Harrison, Billie Pierce and Barbara White. Happy travels to you.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

RUTH RUBIO AND LARRY SCLERANDI



ABOVE: Ruth and Larry at Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park in Nova Scotia.

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

▶ Larry Sclerandi and I grew up in what we think of as two very different worlds. Larry grew up in Port Arthur, Texas and lived there until a bit after graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School. Larry LOVES his hometown and recalls a mostly happy childhood playing with neighborhood friends, going to movies with his French-speaking grandparents and daydreaming about the bigger world. In the 1940s and 1950s, Port Arthur was a thriving town with a local economy dependent on oil refineries. Larry loves telling the story of his great grandfather who was told by his brother who was working at a Port Arthur refinery “Come to Port Arthur! If you have a pulse, then you’ll have a job!” The city was booming. Geographically, the city of Port Arthur is located about 25 miles from the Louisiana border. However, the influence of Louisiana’s Cajun culture was pervasive and robust in his hometown. Larry’s mom, born in Henry, Louisiana, would cook gumbo and the family would eat boudain. On his dad’s side of the family, the influences were strongly Italian. So, Larry’s upbringing was rich in Cajun culture, spoken Cajun French and family all around.

Ruth’s experience growing up in San Antonio had parallels to Larry’s but with a totally different flavor. It has been said that San Antonio is the northernmost city of Mexico and Monterrey is the southernmost city of the United States. Mexican culture is pervasive and strong in San Antonio with local stores carrying Mexican ingredients and foods. Panaderias (bakeries) dotted the main roads of the barrios and next to it there might be a tortilleria that sells freshly made corn tortillas along with all manner of ethnic foods such as barbacoa, menudo, etc. In other words, the Mexican and, by extension, the Catholic influences were profound. Ruth went to Catholic schools through college and her parents were firm believers in the idea that education was the way to a better standard of living. Our family was working class, and our extended family was always available whenever there were hard times.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

▶ When we think about our family our thoughts go to those who have passed and those who are here. Larry’s family heritage is Italian (via Argentina) and Cajun. His Italian great grandparents came from Santa Margherita close to Genoa. During tough economic times in Italy some of the ancestors moved to Argentina and one member later came to the USA. That man became Larry’s grandfather Louis. Ruth’s family came from Mexico but not all the ancestors immigrated. Some have been in San Antonio for a long time surviving past political battles about the sovereignty of the land. Among Mexican Americans, it is sometimes said that “we didn’t cross the border...the border crossed us.” Interestingly, Ruth’s great grandmother Rose was from Ireland. And Rose’s son, Ruth’s grandfather, was called Grandpa Red by the family for his flaming red hair and blue eyes.

Our current day family is mostly in Texas. Larry and Ruth have two adult children, Lawrence and Arianne. They are wonderful individuals with great families! Our son teaches Spanish at Austin High School and is known as “Profe.” He seems to have found his professional home there and enjoys being part of the AHS Maroon Family. He is married to Genest, and they have two young children, Lawrence IV and Olivia. Arianne is a commercial banker with Frost Bank in Austin. She studied at the University of Minnesota and at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has done very well in her career and is involved with the community via Habitat for Humanity. She is married to her sweetheart Megan Gingrich who is a Nurse Practitioner at the VA and is a veteran herself. Larry

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

RUTH RUBIO AND LARRY SCLERANDI

and Ruth feel like the luckiest people because their immediate family all live in Austin. How lucky is that!

TALK ABOUT YOUR CAREERS

► We are grateful for having had fulfilling jobs and careers over our lifetime. Larry attended the University of Texas School of Architecture and worked as an architect for about 35 years. However, before setting family roots down in Texas, Larry joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to Fez, Morocco. It was a life-changing experience to live in a vastly different part of the world and learn about the history, culture, and perspective of the people of Morocco. He was there for a bit over two years working in the office of urban design in the city of Fez. Having Peace Corps buddies throughout the country allowed him to travel widely and get to know the country as few Americans have the opportunity to do. To this day, Larry enjoys telling stories about his time there. His career in Texas was in the public sector and the work was mainly in project management. Larry worked with the City of Austin for about ten years and then later with the Austin Independent School District for another 25 years. In project management, he worked to make sure that tax dollars were wisely spent. At his retirement party one of the administrators joked that “Larry treated every public tax dollar as if it were his own money!” In other words, he took his public responsibility seriously.

Ruth graduated from the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work with a graduate degree. The time after graduation was a period of personal transition and trying to figure out next steps. Like so many UT grads, one of the goals was to figure out a way to stay in Austin. Ruth's first job was with the City of Austin, Community Development Office which housed many of the local efforts related to President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Programs related to the War on Poverty were evolving and one of the results was the Housing and Community Development Block Grant; the new effort required community involvement. Ruth organized the required citizen participation process in a south Austin neighborhood and when the citizens spoke the result was the South Austin Multipurpose Center located on Durwood St. The experience of working with community people to assess social and economic needs and work toward solutions was enlightening and deeply meaningful. Subsequently, Ruth worked with the Texas Department of Human Services Office of Research and Development. In particular, Ruth worked with various program areas to look for funding aimed at creating and testing innovative solutions to stubborn administrative/policy problems. Lastly, Ruth returned to the UT School of

Social Work (now named the Steve Hicks School of Social Work) for the last 20+ years of her career as part of the Clinical Faculty. Working with both graduate and undergraduate students was very rewarding and meaningful because students often would undergo a transformation during their internship experiences. Students grew in their self-perception as professionals and their self-confidence. Also, Ruth created and taught for nine years an international study abroad course in London, England. The focus of the class was to learn about the history of the profession of social work and about social and economic justice. This class has been very successful and is still being offered by the School of Social Work.

NOW THAT YOU ARE RETIRED, HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

► Before retiring we would hear retired people say they were so busy that they wondered how they ever found time to work. Now we understand. We work toward finding the “sweet spot” of being busy yet not overly so. Larry volunteers at St. David's Hospital, works in the yard, read books on a variety of topics, and informs himself on social/political current issues. Ruth studies Spanish, reads books as a member of two book clubs (Las Comadres and American Association of University Women), practices yoga, cooks and loves to eat, and keeps up with family and friends. Both of us exercise often, attend cultural/arts events and help family with grandkids or home improvement/maintenance projects. Plus, we travel both domestically and internationally. Over the years we have enjoyed month-long stays in London, Paris, Montreal, Portland OR, Corpus Christi TX and other cities. Staying for one month allows us a slower pace and a deeper dive into the culture and vibe of a city.

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

► Without a doubt, the best thing about RFSA is the people! Being a member allows Ruth to stay in touch with friends made both before and after retiring. As President of RFSA in 2018-19, Ruth gained a deep appreciation for Carol Barrett, Texas Exes, and all the RFSA members that make the organization work well. Additionally, groups such as Foodies and Travel offer opportunities which have multiple benefits. In relation to the travel group, you get to learn about the history, arts, and culture of new destinations. Also, you travel with other RFSA members and get to know them better. Lastly, a small portion of the travel fee is contributed to the RFSA Scholarship fund. That is what is known as a win-win!



ABOVE: Peggy's Cove. Photo by Billie Pierce.

RFSA VISITS

NOVA SCOTIA AND THE CANADIAN MARITIMES

JULY 22-30, 2023

BY ROBIN FRADENBURGH

► Sixteen travelers set out on July 22nd for Halifax on the RFSA trip to Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The timing on the break from the Texas heat was spot on...the weather ranged from the 60s to the 80s. And every day the travelers saw some form of water. Visiting all the lobster and fishing locations with their lighthouses and quaint villages was always a photo opportunity in the making.

Some of the highlights included Alexander Graham Bell's Museum in Baddeck; Cabot Trail and Cape Breton Highlands National Park with its majestic cliffs and sandy beaches; the 1 ½ hour ferry ride across the Northumberland Strait to Prince Edward Island; a bag pipe and dance demonstration at the College of Piping; a tour of Green Gables where the author of Anne of Green Gables grew up; crossing the Confederate Bridge, the longest bridge over ice, to New Brunswick; visiting the Bay of Fundy and Hopewell Rocks at low tide as the Bay of Fundy has the highest total tidal variation in the world (46 ft. at Hopewell Rocks); visiting Lunenburg which is one of only two urban UNESCO World Heritage sites in North America and Canada's fishing capital; the public gardens in Halifax; the Citadel which protected early Halifax; seeing the cemetery and headstones where 150 people from the Titanic were buried (they were recovered by two ships from Nova Scotia); and the star of the trip, Peggy's Cove, with its iconic lighthouse.

The travelers were entertained on the bus by watching the beautiful scenery, an occasional fun game, and some informative videos. Of course, the

movie, Anne of Green Gables was shown. They also watched a documentary on the construction of the Confederation Bridge linking Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick. It's nine miles long and was completed in 1997 after four years of construction. Also, they saw another documentary on Alexander Graham Bell's life and inventions. When the group wasn't watching videos, Gaelic music was usually on.

The last two days of the trip, the bus took alternative routes to Lunenburg and Peggy's Cove as the main highways had been washed out the night before their arrival in Halifax. A major storm dumped 15 inches of rain. It was uncertain when the group arrived if they would be able to see these last two sites. The alternate route to Lunenburg took them right by the area where the wildfires had started in Nova Scotia back in May, burning over 150 homes/structures. This was responsible for the smoke that hit the East Coast of the U.S. earlier this summer.



ABOVE: Group on Cabot Trail. Photo by Karen Hyde, Premier tour director.

RFSA VISITS

NOVA SCOTIA AND THE CANADIAN MARITIMES

The trip included four dinners which highlighted the fish and seafood of the area. One of the nights on Prince Edward Island, the group went for a lobster feast at a restaurant called New Glasgow Lobster Suppers, serving since 1958. And it was truly a feast, everyone had a plastic bib, which was a necessity. It was all you could eat rolls, seafood chowder, mussels, and salads, culminating with a whole lobster. And then there was all you could eat dessert.

One of their fellow RFSA travelers was overheard saying he couldn't remember the last time he had eaten that much. No matter where the group ate, the travelers gravitated to the oysters, mussels, lobster, and shrimp...every now and then, salmon, chowder, or fish and chips.

The buying quest for the group was the hunt for the variety of potato chip flavors and candy that was unique to Canada. Or at least unknown to this group of travelers. The odd flavored potato chips came in many varieties, but the following were the ones that were tried: spicy dill pickle, ketchup, roasted chicken, and all dressed. The unusual candy was found in New Brunswick, a Palo-Mine candy bar, which was like a Snickers bar, and Chicken Bones, which was a peppermint candy filled with chocolate. Both candies are made by Ganong, which touts itself as Canada's premier chocolatier since 1873. At one of the popular creameries, Cow, you could buy chocolate covered potato chips.

The tour director picked up certificates that granted each traveler membership in The Order of the Good Time. The certificates read: "Today membership in the Order of the Good Time is a vivid reminder of a colorful tradition which began... at Port Royal... Any visitor who remains in Nova Scotia for three days qualifies for membership. Only four things are requested of members--to have a good time, to remember us pleasantly, to speak of us kindly, and to come back again!"—D.C. Harvey Nova Scotia Archives MG1, vol. 1781, F9/59. It was a truly memorable trip...beautiful scenery, delicious food, and wonderful comradery.

Additional photos are found on the RFSA website <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>.



ABOVE: Flower Pot at low tide, in the Bay of Fundy. Photo by Robin Fradenburgh.



ABOVE: St. John Anglican Church, a UNESCO heritage site. Photo by Robin Fradenburgh.



ABOVE: Cabot Trail in Cape Breton National Park. Photo by Richard Armenta.

LONGHORN FYI

DISABILITY CULTURAL CENTER

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

► The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) established the Disability Cultural Center (DCC) a year ago. The center serves as a hub on campus for organizing, community building and expression for students with disabilities and all members of The University of Texas at Austin.

Emily Shryock, who previously served as the director of campus collaborations and access in Disability and Access, is the first director of the DCC. In this role, she will expand upon her work in supporting students with disabilities in many ways—from spearheading big events such as Disability Graduation and Adapted Sports Night to leading student support groups. The DCC will also engage with faculty and staff with disabilities as well as allies and advocates across campus, providing new opportunities for these groups to connect and engage with each other and with students.

“A lot of the work that will be done in the DCC are initiatives that started in Disability & Access,” Shryock says. “My role will be focused on community building, identity development, training and education.”

One of just 12 Disability Cultural Centers in the nation—and the first of its kind in Texas—the DCC is designed to provide a space where disabled members of the UT community can come together and celebrate disability culture and identity. Shryock envisions the DCC to operate much like other established centers on campus, such as the Multicultural Engagement Center and the Gender & Sexuality Center. The planning process for the physical space is currently underway. Events and gatherings are held in various locations on campus and online.

“The DCC is a place where disability is normalized and celebrated on campus,” Shryock says. “This is where students can find their community and be celebrated for who they are.”



LEFT: DDC Director Emily Shryock

Shryock credits several student organizations—Student Government, Disability Advocacy Student Coalition, and many others—for starting the grassroots campaign to create this space on campus. In 2021, a formal working group of students, faculty and staff was formed to bring the DCC into fruition.

Shryock is especially grateful for several university leaders who have played a key role in championing the center’s creation: Dr. LaToya Smith, vice president for diversity and community engagement; Dr. Soncia Reagins-Lilly, vice president for student affairs and dean of students; and Dr. Jennifer Maedgen, senior associate vice president in DDCE.

“It’s really incredible how quickly this all came together, which doesn’t happen often in higher education,” says Shryock, who is pleased to note that the center received funding for the next three years. “This speaks to the commitment made by our university leaders and amazing campus partners. They put a lot of time and energy into making the DCC a reality, and I appreciate their support.”

To learn more about DDC resources and services, visit <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.



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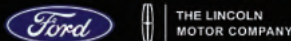
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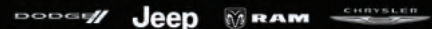


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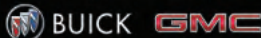
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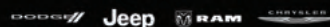
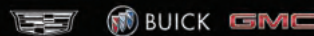
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MEMBER SUMMER TRAVEL

Scotland and Ireland Trip

BY DONNA BELLINGHAUSEN

► In May, Uli Beisbier and I travelled to Scotland and Ireland, ending with a few days in London.

Inverness, the largest city in the Highlands, proved to be a lovely, friendly city. Our first tour began with a cruise on Loch Ness. Beautiful views of the water, the scenery surrounding us, such as the 13th century ruins of the Urquhart, kept us spellbound. Unfortunately, we did not get a glimpse of Nessie! Our tour continued on land with a stop at the Clava Cairns. We walked through the 4,000-year-old cemetery to see two sites containing prehistoric burial monuments and the remains of a medieval chapel.

Another tour was to Applecross, a remote area in the Northern Highlands. Much of the gorgeous drive was on twisty-turny coastal roads. We encountered the charming Highland longhaired cattle, called “Hairy Coos”; saw beautiful scenery at every turn, and tasted scotch at a local distillery.

In Edinburgh, we stayed in the Old Town at a hotel at the foot of one side of the Castle. A tour that included Rosslyn Chapel and Hadrian’s Wall was amazing. Rosslyn Chapel was first built in 1446. Sunday services are still held every Sunday. Almost every surface is carved in figures and scenes, each one with its own story.

We drove to a portion of Hadrian’s Wall, the ancient wall built by the Romans. What remains today is a network of sections that are part of the footings of the wall. It’s just mind-boggling



ABOVE: Applecross

to walk alongside a structure that was begun in AD 12.

On another day we walked through the Royal Yacht Britannia. Visitors can view the personal quarters of the royal family. The quarters for the crew included dining and sleeping, even mail service, with an obvious separation between the officers and yachtsmen.

From Scotland we spent several days in Dublin. The highlight was our trip to the Cliffs of Moher. There were trails and walk-ways up to the cliffs, so we enjoyed incredible views of the cliffs, the sea, and the birds. Breathtaking.

We ended our trip in London and were eager to visit for the second time. After a day in Windsor (beautiful castle and chapel, charming town), London High Tea and our first visit to the unbelievably busy Borough Market, we had to leave. Great memories of the UK!



ABOVE: Edinburgh Old Town



ABOVE: Highland Hairy Coo

CELEBRATING CAROL BARRETT'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

SHARON JUSTICE,
ASSISTANT MAGAZINE EDITOR

ELEANOR MOORE, FORMER
PRESIDENT

SUSAN KESSLER, FORMER
PRESIDENT

► As thousands of excited Longhorns surged into DKR Memorial Stadium before the Kansas football game in the fall, scores of Carol Barrett fans gathered excitedly in the Alumni Center Legends Room to honor Carol for 50 years of service at the Texas Exes. The grand surprise of the morning was the creation of the *Carol Wueste Barrett Endowed Scholarship* which will be a permanent homage to her life and work and will benefit generations of future UT students. A legendary figure to generations of students, faculty staff, volunteers and anyone involved with the Texas Exes, Carol's love of UT and the Texas Exes is inspiring and motivating.

The overall sentiment in the Legends Room that day was unanimous: Carol is the Best! But it is the individual stories that were shared quietly in private conversations that gave substance to the day. It seemed that everyone had a "Carol

story" to share. Countless examples of Carol's magic tell the real story of why she is revered by so many. Alumni and lifelong friends (students from the 70's) led a grassroots campaign to fund an endowment in Carol's name and to organize the occasion in the Alumni Center.

"The time our committee needed a place for a social gathering, and she opened her home to us."

"The time she found a football ticket to a sold-out game for my granddaughter."

As Eleanor Moore, a friend for over 40 years says, "Class is sometimes defined as treating everyone, rich or poor, the same. If that's true, Carol is the classiest person I know."

Carol has supported RFSA for over 20 years. Many RFSA members agreed to serve in board positions only when Carol promised not to retire. What would we do without Carol? Her history of our organization, her commitment to us, and her willingness to go the extra mile make her invaluable. Congratulations, Carol, on your many achievements!



ABOVE: Carol during presentation



ABOVE: Presentation of the endowment funding

TEXAS CONNECT

► We are delighted to announce a new Retired Faculty-Staff Association benefit for our dues paying members. *Texas Connect* magazine will now be made 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.

REIMAGINING RETIREMENT WEBINARS

HOSTED BY AROHE AND FIDELITY INVESTMENTS®

► RFSA is a member of the international organization: Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). One of the things they focus on is supporting the development and enhancement of campus-based retirement organizations and programs which support retirees' lifelong engagement in higher education. AROHE is offering a webinar series on **Reimagining Retirement**. The series is offered at no cost and is open to everyone. The 3-part webinar is summarized below. Visit the RFSA website (sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/) for more information on AROHE, the webinar series, and registration. You may be reading this after the first session, you can still register for the remaining sessions.



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RFSA VISITS

NEW YORK CITY AND THE HUDSON VALLEY SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2023



ABOVE: Cadet Cathedral, West Point Academy.
Photo by Billie Pierce.

BY BILLIE PIERCE

► We began our tour of New York City with the rain from Tropical Storm Ophelia. Undaunted, we walked through Central Park to the Strawberry Fields tribute to John Lennon and the “Imagine” medallion. Central Park is not to be missed rain or shine. After a stop at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, our local guide Richard led us to Grand Central Terminal for the history of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis’s efforts to help save Grand Central as an historical landmark. Grand Central Terminal received designated city landmark status in August 1967 and already in 1968 developers were proposing plans to alter Grand Central and lose part of the original structure. Thanks to the efforts of The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) led by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and other notable New Yorkers, the beautiful structure was saved intact and gradually restored in the late 1970s through the mid-1990s. Richard then led us via the coach and our driver Lou to see neighborhoods in Lower Manhattan including Chinatown, Little Italy, Greenwich Village, Gramercy Park, and Murray Hill.

Our tour group consisted of 12 people from Texas/UT Austin and the other 13 travelers were from

California, Oregon, Nevada, and North Carolina plus our tour director Ira and our driver Lou. It’s always fun to chat with the other travelers about their home states and to find out what the tour director and driver are like. Our entire group enjoyed the “Welcome Dinner” our second night in NYC and we walked together to the theater for the performance of the musical “Moulin Rouge.”

The group spent two days in Manhattan in the rain dodging umbrellas but saw many highlights including Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, and the One World Observatory. Lunch was at the delightful South Street Seaport at our choice of places in the Tin Building. Outside we had a perfect view of the majestic Brooklyn Bridge. We packed up that night and headed for the Hudson Valley the following day for the second half of our tour.

The Hudson Valley is spectacular! There was no fall foliage yet, but the views from West Point and Boscobel House of the mountains and the Hudson River are astonishing. We had our local guide Ed through parts of our tour of West Point and we walked through the visitors’ center and the Cadet Chapel. Ed has over 30 years’ experience working at West Point and a wealth of great stories about the people and the institution. After, we traveled to Boscobel House, a nonprofit museum with furnishings and art from the 19th century. Our local guide gave us lots of information about the house and its beautiful antique contents.

National Park rangers provide tours of the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt at the historic site. Our guide, Eric led us through the Roosevelt house with entertaining stories about FDR. Some of the most interesting stories centered around FDR’s illness with polio and how he managed his illness in his public life as a U.S. President.

Mark Soukup of Soukup Farms gave a fascinating



ABOVE: Franklin D Roosevelt Mid-Hudson Bridge.
Photo by Billie Pierce.

RFSA VISITS

NEW YORK CITY AND THE HUDSON VALLEY SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2023

overview of what it is like to own and operate a maple syrup farm. Wonderful maple donuts and coffee were enjoyed by all throughout his talk. We traveled on to New Paltz, New York, the home of the Historic Huguenot Street. We split into two groups for walks with tour guides Eddie Moran and Tom Carney. Both were enthusiastic to share their knowledge of this early settlement of French and Dutch families dating back to the 17th century.

Our tour director, Ira, saved the day with the Hudson River cruise. Ira received notice from Premier at lunch that the tour was cancelled due to mechanical difficulty with the boat. We were all disappointed with losing the last event before the “Goodbye Dinner.” Ira tracked down another cruise boat through the Hudson River Maritime Museum and we cruised on Solaris, approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for commercial passenger-carrying in 2018. Captain Jim and co-captain Erin led us to the Rondout Lighthouse, pointing out interesting landmarks on the shore until we turned around and returned to Kingston, New York. The captain and co-captain entertained us with details regarding the construction and end-use of the 100% solar-powered boat, which is the only one of its kind operating on the Hudson River.



ABOVE: Rondout Lighthouse, Kingston Pier, Kingston, NY.
Photo by Ella Quinlan.

We said some of our goodbyes at dinner at the Shadows on the Hudson restaurant in Poughkeepsie, NY in view of the colorfully lighted Franklin D. Roosevelt Mid-Hudson Bridge. The 3,000-foot suspension bridge spans the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie to Highland in New York State and carries an additional pedestrian/bicycle walkway over the Hudson.

We hope to meet our fellow travelers again on a future travel adventure.

Additional photos are found on the RFSA website <https://sites.utexas.edu/rfsa/>.



ABOVE: FDR National Historic Site, Hyde Park, NY.
Photo by Billie Peirce



ABOVE: Ellis Island. Photo by Billie Pierce.

RFSA HOLIDAY RECEPTION



ABOVE: Marco Antonio Santos, guitarist and UT graduate (MA-Jazz Performance & Doctorate in Composition)



ABOVE: L-R: Karen Kelton, Hillary Hart, Elizabeth Cullingford, Alan Friedman, Madeline Sutherland-Meier; and Robert Lawrence

► RFSA members gathered on Friday, December 1 for our annual Holiday Reception. We met in the Thompson Conference Center, always beautifully decorated for the holidays, and enjoyed the perfect fall weather for this year's gathering. Inside we gathered around the lovely Christmas tree while also having a view of the fall foliage on the trees outside.

Our entertainment this year was the incredible guitarist Marco Antonio Santos, UT graduate with a Master's in Jazz Performance and a Doctorate in Composition. Dr. Santos' unique style was influenced by his Brazilian roots. He performed three songs that we all knew but his stunning arrangements meant that it took us all a minute to recognize. Then you could see everyone light up as they put the words of the song to his beautiful music. It was a magical musical start to the holidays.

And of course, it would not be an RFSA gathering without delicious food! This year we had a lovely meal in addition to the dessert table and an open bar with wine and beer. Our annual reception also highlights one of our RFSA service projects, Orange Santa. This year members donated over \$700 to Orange Santa during the party, and that does not include online donations. This year, Orange Santa was able to provide a \$50 gift card to more than 1,200 children, the most children ever assisted and the highest gift card value in Orange Santa's history.

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 safe and happy holidays and hope to see you often in 2024!



ABOVE: Carole Buckman and Virginia Phillips



ABOVE: L-R: Robin Jarman, Mary Lopez, Frances Castillo

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.

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

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 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 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.

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In memory of Geraldine Probst Martinez

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For the 2023-24 academic year, twenty-five students were awarded scholarships worth a total of \$62,500. The University did not provide us with all the names at this time; however, we are sharing what is available. 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.



Devin Wallets

HOMETOWN:
Denton, Texas

SCHOOL: Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Psychology

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

I haven't quite narrowed down my scope yet, but I like forensic psychology a lot and child development. Maybe something to do with inmates in the future, or helping children.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

It means security! In high school, I decided I would have to be valedictorian to get into college; there would be no other way to ensure I would have money to go unless I got a full ride. And I did. Four long years of work and effort paid off so I could create the future I dreamed of. And now as I am awarded more scholarships than I apply for, it makes my work at the University feel so validated and appreciated. I truly would not be here if it weren't for the generosity of scholarship donors, who take an interest in kids like me and want to help us fund whatever we deem necessary.



Bill Geng

HOMETOWN: San Antonio, Texas

SCHOOL: College of Natural Sciences

MAJOR: Biology

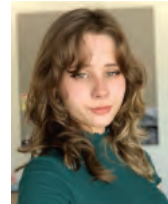
YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE MY CAREER GOALS?

To become a doctor

WHAT DOES RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

It means a lot to me since balancing spending and tuition is difficult.



Nicole Casaca-Watkins

HOMETOWN:
Crosby, Texas

SCHOOL: Liberal Arts

MAJOR: Psychology

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

My current goals for the future are to get into a forensic psychology graduate program sometime after I graduate, get licensed after that, and then work with incarcerated populations to promote reform.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Receiving a scholarship means a lot to me, to say the least. Many unfathomable circumstances in life had the opportunity to stop me in my tracks, but support like this allows me to keep seeking my education in the face of adversity. I am very thankful.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Angela New

HOMETOWN:
Austin, Texas

SCHOOL:
Moody College of
Communication

MAJOR: Radio-Television-Film and
Entrepreneurship

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Sophomore

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

I would like to have a very multifaceted career in film and television. I'd like to delve into different genres, different mediums (like mini-series, feature films, and music videos), as well as different roles like writing/directing/editing. I'd eventually want to find what I enjoy the most and stick to that, but after graduating my goal is to try as many hats as possible so that my resume and portfolio reflect my diverse interests and skills.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

UT Austin is a very large school and to be one of the limited recipients of this award makes me feel like I stand out in this space. It makes all the effort I put into my education and work feel worth it, and encourages me to keep working, as hard work gets rewarded. Receiving this scholarship also lifts some weight off my shoulders as I can take some time from working to focus on my education and filmmaking.



Breyona Mitchell

HOMETOWN:
Houston, Texas

SCHOOL: College of
Liberal Arts and Fine
Arts

MAJOR: English and Studio Art (Double
Major)

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

I want to become a storyboard artist or character designer in the art industry and independently publish novels/comics.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Receiving the scholarship means more time spent pursuing my goals instead of stressing about the financial side of college. I'm better able to focus on studying for classes and creating art (both in class and outside of it) It's also given me more opportunities to be social and hang out with my friends without the stress of, I should be doing something else right now.



Louis Cao

HOMETOWN:
Richmond, Texas

SCHOOL: McCombs
School of Business

MAJOR: Business Analytics/McCombs
Success Scholar and Computational
Science and Engineering Program and
Elements of Computing

YEAR IN SCHOOL: Junior

WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

Sell my soul to Wall Street, conduct research in the Uncertainty Quantification and Inversion field, or become a professor. Maybe it is none of the above; maybe it's all the above in varying orders. Only time will tell.

WHAT DOES THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO ME?

Simply said, the RFSA scholarship is a validation of my efforts and enables me to get back to really what matters.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Bilal Choudhry

Murphy, Texas
McCombs School of Business
Business
Sophomore

Janny Li

Katy, Texas
College of Liberal Arts
Psychology & Social and Behavioral Sciences
Senior

Lucas Lin

Keller, Texas
College of Natural Sciences
Biology, Healthcare Reform and Innovation
Sophomore

Santino Hassett

Oak Lawn, Texas
Cockrell School of Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Zhihao Fan

China
Education, Natural Sciences
Exercise Science and Allied Health Professions
Junior

Zayana Uddin

Wichita Falls, Texas
Liberal Arts, Fine Arts
Psychology and Art History
Senior

Olivia Willemsen

Round Rock, Texas
Liberal Arts, Business
Psychology and Business
Sophomore

Virginia Bilic Gutierrez

Richmond, Texas
Cockrell School of Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Sophomore

Mira Want

Missouri City, Texas
McCombs School of Business
Management Information Systems
Sophomore



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MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

ADDENDUM TO SPRING/SUMMER 2023 ARTICLE

Alan Friedman was appointed by the Executive Officers in June 2023, to fill a vacant position. He was appointed after our Spring/Summer issue went to press.



► **Alan Friedman** is a Member-at-Large. He retired from the Department of English as the Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature. An active author of scholarly works, he has specialized in modern British, Irish, and American literature, as well as the novel and Shakespearean drama. He is the recipient of a President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award, Plan II's Chad Oliver Teaching Award, an English Department Faculty Service Award, and the university's Civitatis Award. He also served as the Chair of the university's Faculty Council and Secretary of the General Faculty.

Information about these individuals is available on our RFSA website (sites.utexas.edu/rfsa) and on our RFSA Facebook page (search Facebook Groups for University of Texas Retired Faculty-Staff Association). Congratulations to these nominees and new board members from the RFSA Nominations Committee: Sharon Justice, Susan Kessler, Mary Knight, Charles Roeckle, and Tany Norwood, Chair.

Respect and Honor
for Austin area families.

Weed-Corley-Fish North
512-452-8811

Weed-Corley-Fish South
512-442-1446

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 April 30, 2023 – December 1, 2023. 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 jbffrock@gmail.com.

Peter Fouad Abboud, 92

Arabic Language Program
October 21, 2023

Barbara Bader Aldave, 84

*Professor Emerita, School of Law,
Teaching Excellence Award*
May 23, 2023

Mack Daniel Andrews, 70

Utilities and Energy Management
May 22, 2023

Michael William Arn, 77

Technical Staff Assistant V
August 29, 2023

Robert Milton Bell, 87

Photographer, UT Archaeology Research Lab
June 15, 2023

Roger Dean Bengston, 82

Professor, Physics
May 8, 2023

Jilda Gayle Bolton, 73

*Executive Assistant to Chair of Civil,
Architectural & Environmental Engineering*
June 5, 2023

Patricia Margie Bronstad, 82

Information Analyst, Natural Sciences
November 6, 2023

Margaret Cannon Boyce Brown, 99

Assistant Professor, Home Economics
October 29, 2023

Garil Bunce, 74

LBJ School of Public Affairs and UT Development Office
October 17, 2023

Guy Louis Bush, 94

Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Adjunct Professor, after retirement
August 2, 2023

Ruth Blossom Buss, 84

Wife of Arnold Blossom, Chair, Clinical Psychology
June 19, 2023

Patsy Marie Converse, 86

Office Administration, UT Police Department
May 29, 2023

Oscar E. Delepiani

*Serials Cataloger, Benson Latin American
Collection, UT Libraries*
November 4, 2023

Jocelyne Sylvia Marie-Noelle Denbow, 77

Wife of Jim Denbow, Professor, Anthropology
July 11, 2023

Adrienne Constant DeVergie, 97

Reference Librarian, Undergraduate Library, UT Libraries
June 7, 2023

George E. Dix, 82

Professor Emeritus, Criminal Law, Law School
May 10, 2023

Manfred Kurt Fink, 96

Professor, Physics
November 16, 2023

Wanda Jean Shaw Fisher, 90

Counseling & Mental Health Center
November 4, 2023

Davis Lee Ford, 86

Adjunct Professor, Civil Engineering
September 15, 2023

John Bannister Goodenough, 100

*Virginia H. Cockrell Centennial Chair, Engineering;
Nobel Prize Recipient in Chemistry (oldest winner at 97)*
June 25, 2023

Robert Lewis Hardgrave Jr., 84

*Louann & Larry Temple Centennial
Professor Emeritus, Humanities*
May 21, 2023

Gladys Evangeline Hermanson, 96

Legal Secretary, UT System
September 10, 2023

Mildred Joseph, 95

Teacher, Computation Center
May 28, 2023

Robert Desmond King, 87

*Professor & Founding Dean, Liberal Arts;
Chair, Linguistics*
July 6, 2023

Elaine Ephraim Lebowitz, 98

Widow of Leon Lebowitz, Professor Emeritus, Law
November 26, 2023

Clyde E. Lee, 94

*Nasser I. Al-Rashid Centennial Professor
Emeritus, Transportation Engineering*
October 19, 2023

Ivan Ray Leschber, 90

*Inducted as "Emeritus Member" by UT
Track & Field Officials Association*
October 15, 2023

Bill Little

Sports Information Director, Athletics
August 18, 2023

IN MEMORIAM

James Norris Loehlin, 58

Associate Professor, English
September 14, 2023

Edward John Lundy, 92

*Paulist Priest, University Catholic
Student Center, Bible Chair*
October 8, 2023

Hunter C. March, 85

*Professor Emeritus, Music & Human
Learning; Associate Dean, Fine Arts;
Graduate Assembly Chair*
October 17, 2023

Geraldine (Gerri) Probst Martinez, 79

Wife of former RFSA President, Cecil Martinez
August 12, 2023

Michael Patrick McKinley, 69

Bureau of Economic Geology
May 30, 2023

John S. McNeil, 96

*Louis & Ann Wolens Centennial Chair
Emeritus in Gerontology, Social Work*
May 24, 2023

Robert L. Moody, 88

*Moody Foundation, Blanton Museum,
Moody Center & Others at UT*
November 7, 2023

John Robert Moore, 72

Director of Work Force Analytics, Human Resources
June 15, 2023

Terry Lynn Blincoe Newman, 65

Jackson School Geosciences
June 5, 2023

Doris Jennie Palmer Norton, 94

*Widow of Clint Norton, Director of
PAC; taught class piano at UT*
May 13, 2023

John Tinsley Oden, 86

*Founding Director of Oden Institute for Computational
Engineering & Sciences and held the Peter O'Donnell,
Jr. Centennial Chair in Computing Systems;
Professorships in Aerospace Engineering & Engineering
Mechanics, Mathematics and Computer Science;
Cockrell Family Regents' Chair in Engineering*
August 27, 2023

James Archer Prentice, 86

*Advisory Council member, Natural Sciences;
Commission of 125 member; UT Foundation Member*
May 19, 2023

Katherine Parmelee Race, 96

Widow of William Race, Professor, Piano
October 11, 2023

Charley Addison Randall, 71

Staff, Computer Lab Department
May 22, 2023

Susan Karol Rieff, 67

*Executive Director, Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center; Senior Research Fellow,
Center for Sustainable Design, Architecture*
July 6, 2023

Yacov Sharir, 83

Faculty Emeritus, Theatre & Dance
October 2, 2023

Lois Glenn Shrout, 72

Associate Director, Bureau of Business Research
October 8, 2023

Ben E. Smith, 97

Graphic Designer & Illustrator, Division of Extension
July 24, 2023

David (Dave) William Snyder, 90

UT Tennis Coach
November 4, 2023

Patricia Ann Somers, 73

*Associate Professor, Graduate
Educational Leadership Program*
March 10, 2023

Lucinda Reed Terry, 80

University System
November 12, 2023

Jack S. Turner, 80

*Research Physicist, Educator, a
founder of the Physics Circus*
October 16, 2023

James Whitfield Vick, 81

*Professor Emeritus, Mathematics,
Distinguished Teaching Professor;
Vice President for Student Affairs*
November 8, 2023

Joseph Frank Willman, 92

Assistant Director, Applied Research Laboratories
April 23, 2023

Paul Woodruff, 80

*Hayden W. Head Regent Chair, Plan II Honors
Program; Dean, Undergraduate Studies*
September 25, 2023

RFSA

The University of Texas at Austin
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Austin, TX 78713

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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 7278 / Austin, TX 78713.

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