

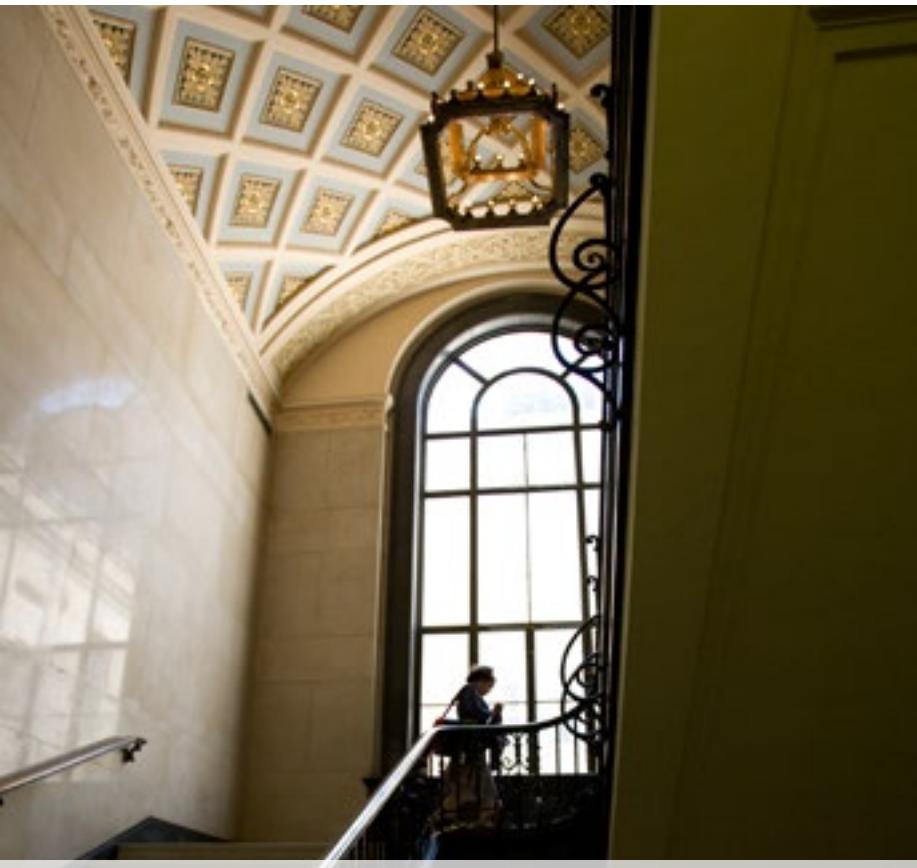
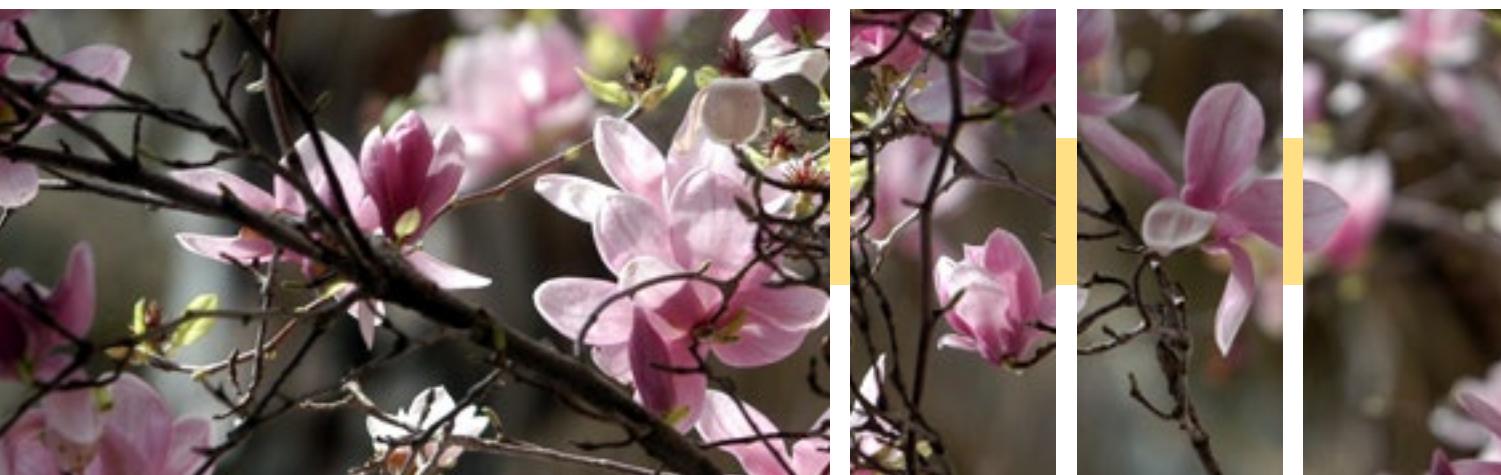


Retired Faculty & Staff Association MAGAZINE

Spring 2013

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Volume XXVII, Issue 2



2012-2013 RFSA Board

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DISCUSSION	Don Davis Susan Howard
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FINE ARTS	Deena Mersky
HEALTH	Carol Obianwu
TRAVEL	Carol Kay Johnson

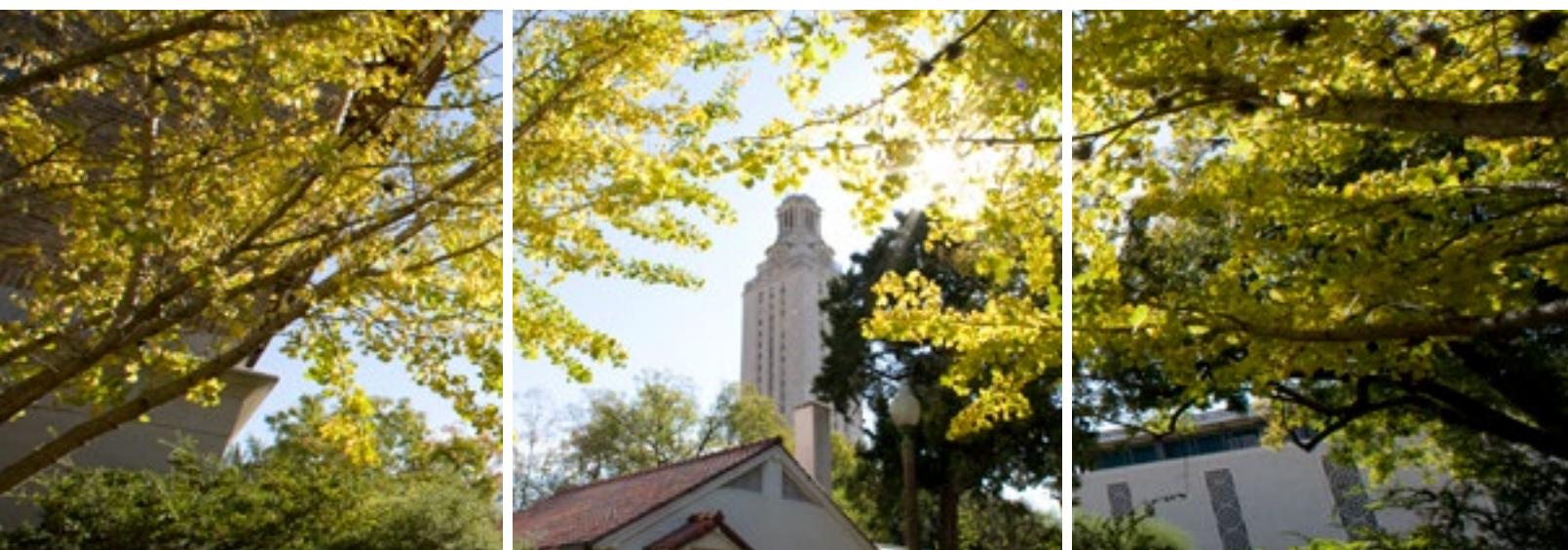
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year, like so many others, has whizzed by too quickly, and I can see the end of my term as president right around the corner. It has been a total pleasure to serve as president, and I appreciate the opportunity to have done so.

We had our holiday party at the Bauer House, and it couldn't have been more spectacular. I was particularly happy to greet many new members as I stood in the doorway, and I hope they have been participants in some of our ongoing activities. Even though the season was officially "winter," the day was sunny and warm, allowing us to enjoy the patio, and to move in and out comfortably.

By far, the highlight of the event was the presence of the Pecan Street Brass, a five-piece brass group. Their playing of varied favorites and seasonal tunes added to the festive nature of the gathering, and we are so grateful for their generous gift of time and talent.

All of the interest groups have been active, with good attendance figures. I do hope new members have been participating. If anyone has thoughts as to how to make our interest groups more accessible, please let us know. Our goal is to meet the needs and interests of our members at a high level, and all thoughts and ideas are welcome.



It has been a total pleasure to serve as president, and I appreciate the opportunity to have done so.

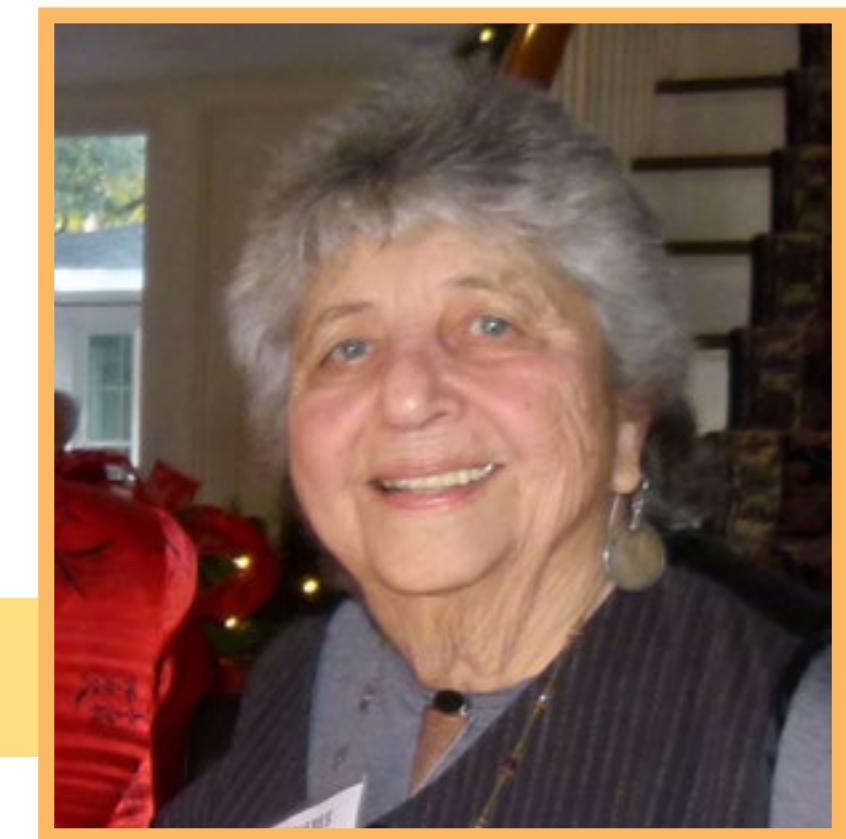
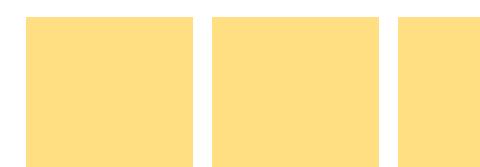
We did work hard on improving our financial status. Selling advertising for the directory and this newsletter is a new tactic, and it seems to be effective. Also effective was selling raffles at our luncheon event. That is one way all of the membership can pitch in and help us succeed, and we will repeat the raffle at our spring luncheon on April 30 (save the date!). Funds raised will enable us to increase our scholarship fund—a goal we view as most worthwhile.

As my term ends, I want to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their support, cooperation, energy, and inventiveness. It has been such a pleasure to work with each of them, and I look forward to rejoining their ranks as chair of the Fine Arts Interest Group.

Above all, I want to thank Carol Barrett for her outstanding staff support. I know when I thank her for her help, she says, "It's my job." But from my years of working experience I know that what Carol does is far more than merely her job—if we look good it is because of her consistent, unwavering, committed devotion to our organization.

From the depths of my heart,
Carol: THANK YOU.

Deena Mersky
RFSA President



INTEREST GROUPS

OUR BUS LEFT AUSTIN on Feb. 27 for the Mystery Trip. The destination: a town filled with Old World charm, known affectionately as "The Little Alsace of Texas." Located on the banks of the Medina River, Castroville was settled in 1844 by Henri Castro and the group of 114 settlers he had recruited from the Alsace region in France. There are more than 300 historic buildings. Not only was Castroville among the first towns to receive the Preserve America Community Designation from Mrs. Laura Bush in a White House ceremony in 2005, but four years later it received the newly created First Lady's Texas Treasures Award from Mrs. Anita Perry. If you have driven through on US Highway 90, you have seen the Steinbach House originally built in 1618 in France. The half-timber and "fachwerk" house was of peg construction. When the home was disassembled in 1988, the oak beams were stored and preserved. The house was a gift to the people of Castroville from the people of Alsace and was reconstructed on the present site between 1998 and 2002 by volunteer craftsmen. The older generation still speaks the same Alsatian language of their ancestors. Walking through the house transports visitors back to another day and time. The present day St. Louis church still uses the original altars, statues and hand-hewn pews. After lunch at the Old Alsatian Steakhouse, our guide took us inside 2 homes with the PCH designation (Pioneer Castroville House)— the John Burger House built in 1844 and the Huth/Jungman House built in 1855—both of which have been beautifully restored, preserving history while incorporating 20th-century amenities. A good time was had by all and on the way home many other ideas for day trips were offered. There will be more day excursions in the future.

The RFSA Spring Getaway to America's newest museum, Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, Arkansas, is April 4-8, 2013. We will have details and photos of that trip in the next newsletter. *For more information or if you have suggestions for future trips, contact the RFSA Travel Chair, Carol Kay Johnson (512-926-8191).*

HEALTH

BETH JASPER AND DON COOK from Capital City Village spoke to members about "Aging in Place" on March 18. They discussed topics such as what choices you have concerning accommodations as you age; staying in your own home vs. moving to a senior center; and how to obtain help to stay in your own home. They emphasized having a plan so you can more effectively take action for the future. *For more information, contact chair Carol Obianwu (cobianwu@mail.utexas.edu).*

JOIN THE RFSA EXERCISE GROUP to improve your balance, flexibility and energy level! We currently have 18 regular members who meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8:30 in the Recreational Sports Center, room 1.106. To participate, you need to join Rec Sports, and there is a 50% discount for retirees. Or get a free one-day pass if you want to just try it first. Discounted parking permits are also available for class times. *For more information, contact chair Carolyn Wylie at cwylie13@att.net or 512-453-2556.*

TRAVEL

EXERCISE

LEADERSHIP

BRIDGE	William B. Crook, Chair
DISCUSSION	Don Davis & Susan Howard, Co-Chairs
EXERCISE	Carolyn Wylie, Chair
FINANCE/INVESTMENTS	Phil Kelton & Cecil Martinez, Co-Chairs
FINE ARTS	Deena Mersky, Chair
HEALTH	Carol Obianwu, Chair
TRAVEL	Carol Kay Johnson, Chair

ADVERTISEMENTS AND RAFFLES, OH MY! You have probably noticed something new on the Directory and Newsletters. A raffle at the Fall meeting was also new. The advertisements and the raffle were started this year to supplement our operating costs. But we hope these new sources of revenue are just the beginning. There is a potential to raise enough money for our RFSA scholarship fund.

We came up with the advertising and the raffle ideas without any experience in getting businesses to advertise with us or knowledge of how to sell tickets at the meetings. We now have a year's experience and are hoping to increase our advertisement and raffle sales beyond the needs of the operating fund. Our hope for the coming 2013-14 year is to raise as much as \$10,000 for scholarships.

We ask that you give those vendors supporting our causes an opportunity to serve you when you have a need for their goods or services. We're confident that you will find it a win-win situation for you and for them. Thank you for your support. *For more information, contact co-chairs Phil Kelton (pwkelton@gmail.com or 512-458-9961) or Cecil Martinez (cecil.martinez@sbcglobal.net or 512-303-5936).*

IN FEBRUARY, THE BRIDGE GROUP had a four-table session for the first time in almost 10 years. We are adding new bridge players at a good pace, and welcome any new members who would like to join. Meetings are usually the first Monday of each month, and are scheduled for May 6 and June 3. *If you are interested in playing, contact Bill Crook at wcrook@satx.rr.com or 210-251-3584.*

BRIDGE

DISCUSSION

DR. HANS MARK was the guest speaker at our meeting on Nov. 28. Dr. Mark, Former Deputy Director of NASA and faculty member in UT's Aerospace Engineering department, spoke on "The Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in Today's World". This was a thoughtful and timely discussion of a topic important to all of us.

DR. FRANK BASH spoke at our March 6 meeting on "Dark Energy and Other Examples of Our Ignorance About the Universe" to a packed room at Howson Library. As well as speaking on dark matter and dark energy, Dr. Bash included an overview of advances in technology that have enabled discoveries unimaginable only a few years ago. All of the attendees were enlightened and entertained! *For more information on the Discussion group, contact co-chair Susan Howard at reiterhof@gmail.com.*

BAUER HOUSE HOLIDAY RECEPTION



DECEMBER 4, 2012 • AUSTIN, TX

THE PECAN STREET BRASS

Those who attended our holiday event at the Bauer House were treated to the sweet and nostalgic sounds of the Pecan Street Brass.

This brass ensemble reflects the collective talent of five musicians who met while playing in the Austin Brass Band. It came to our attention via horn player and RFSA member Terry Martin. Terry worked at the UT Law School at the start of his career, leaving Austin for a succession of several other positions in 1972.

He returned in 2008 as interim law library director at UT after his retirement from Harvard. Terry and his wife, Molly, an (in-line skater and steel drum player) were thrilled to find that living in Austin was so much better than living in Boston, so they decided to spend their retirement years right here.

The other players are similarly multi-talented:

Robert Laguna, trumpet, is Dean of Students at the Academy of Oriental Medicine. He taught music education at Southwest Texas State University.

Ted Rachovsky teaches math at Austin Community College and plays trombone and euphonium. His past includes teaching math in Guadalajara while playing principal trombone for the Orquestra Filarmonica de Jalisco.

Kent Stuiber, native of Wisconsin, works as a software engineer while playing trumpet with the Brass and many other Austin groups.

Dan Augustine, from Reno, was a professional tuba player before deciding a day job might add more to his bank account. He worked at The University of Texas in Information Technology, while continuing his passion for both jazz and classical tuba.

We enjoyed the music they provided, and it made our event even more festive. RFSA members should know that the Pecan Street Brass is available for private events and celebrations as well.

For more information, contact Terry Martin at tmartin@law.utexas.edu or (512) 366-5563.



MEMBER UPDATES



RFSA MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

This year, the UT Ex-Students' Association asked alumni to select 10 faculty members who were most inspiring and unforgettable during their time on campus. Two of those remarkable professors are members (and officers!) in RFSA.

DR. FRANK BASH, professor emeritus in astronomy, started teaching at UT in 1967. He quickly realized that many students in his introductory course were enrolled to fulfill a science credit, not major in astronomy. So he literally rewrote the textbook and reimagined how the course should be taught. Even while he served as director of the McDonald Observatory,

he continued to teach this course. He considers scientific discoveries to be as beautiful as great works of art. Many RFSA members who attended his lecture "Dark Energy and Other Examples of Our Ignorance About the Universe" on March 6 got a glimpse of his passion and his ability to share complex concepts in an understandable way. After just an hour, we all got some insight into why the alumni selected him for this teaching honor. Dr. Bash currently serves as an at-large member of the RFSA Executive Committee.

DR. JOHN MCKETTA, professor emeritus in chemical engineering, is well known to all of us in RFSA as the treasurer of the organization who can even make the numbers on a spreadsheet entertaining. He has spent nearly 70 years at UT as a faculty member and dean of the College of Engineering. His first class in 1946 consisted mostly of World War II veterans, and to this day he still calls former students on their birthdays. He has written 85 books (including the 68-volume *Encyclopedia for Chemical Processing and Design*), and served as energy advisor to four presidents. Dr. McKetta says he has been grateful just to do what he loves, and clearly that love has been returned by his former students.

You can read the full stories in the *Alcalde* magazine's March/April issue or online at alcalde.texasexes.org.



WE RECOMMEND...

Firsthand suggestions from RFSA members



DR. FRANK BASH AT HIS MARCH 6 LECTURE.

FROM BARBARA MYERS, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF RFSA

"The UT-Austin Symphony Orchestra in the Butler School of Music is recognized as one of the top college orchestras in the country. The Symphony Orchestra presents several concerts each academic year, directed by Maestro Gerhardt Zimmerman. Tickets are available the night of the concert at the box office in the foyer of Bates Auditorium. Retired faculty and staff are offered two free tickets each for the performance of this outstanding ensemble. You'll be amazed at the artistry of these student musicians!" www.music.utexas.edu

FROM MILES ABERNATHY, PHOTOGRAPHER AND IT COORDINATOR

"A good source of mental stimulation, at my favorite price (free!), is the monthly Austin Forum meeting. They have presentations by experts in technology, medicine, etc. And before the presentation, they even offer free beer and wine!" Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month, 5:45 pm, at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center. www.austinforum.org.

FROM IRENE ABERNATHY, MILES' MOTHER

"I recommend learning to use the Internet, even at an advanced age. Once you pass age 90, you tend to lose your courage. At least I did. Although I wanted to communicate in a modern mode, I was afraid that I could not deal with anything related to a computer! Then the iPad was introduced several years ago and the buzz about it challenged me. Shortly thereafter my son purchased one and set it up for me. He gave enough instruction to get me started. Being hearing-impaired, visits via phone are no longer in my comfort zone. But now friends send pictures, jokes, stories, and all kinds of news to me. This sounds like a commercial for an iPad, but it's really just my advice to not let fear stand in your way. If a 90-odd year old can learn, anybody can. Try it, you'll like it!"

RFSA REMEMBERS

IN MEMORIAM

October 24, 2012 - March 1, 2013

THIS COLUMN honors the memory of retired University of Texas faculty and staff who have died. Every attempt has been made to identify the University affiliation of each individual. Some named below may not have been members of RFSA, but they are included because of their contribution to the University community. Also included, when known, are spouses of retired faculty and staff members. Any additions or corrections to the list should be addressed to Barbara Frock, Historian, at bfrock@austin.rr.com.

October 26, 2012
Mary Ellen Durden Macnamara, 90
Staff, Harry Ransom Center Photo Lab

October 31, 2012
Carolyn Reaves Gilmore, 73
Director of Continuing Education, Nursing School

November 2, 2012
Robert P. Popovich, 73
Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering

November 3, 2012
Marjorie Dolores Alsup Moore Ebert Rinn, 82
Staff, Texas Student Publications

November 7, 2012
Darrell K Royal, 88
UT Football Coach

November 9, 2012
Hugh William Bryant, 81
Director of Environmental Safety and Health, and Coordinator in Vice President for Business Affairs Office

November 17, 2012
Barbara Becker, 68
Staff, UT Applied Research Labs

November 19, 2012
Mary Gray Crockett, 90
Professor, Nursing

November 26, 2012
Lloyd Anderson, 88
Staff, Buildings and Grounds, Maintenance

November 26, 2012
Benjamin Franklin McCullough, Jr., 78
Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering, and Director of Center for Transportation Research

November 26, 2012
Domingo Rodriguez, 71
Staff, Telecommunications and Networking

November 30, 2012
Michael A. Dassonville, 84
Professor Emeritus, French and Italian

December 10, 2012
Sharon Sue Voyles McGraw, 75
Staff, Office of the President

December 13, 2012
Russell J Weintraub, 82
Law School, Holder of Ben H. and Kitty King Powell Chair in Business & Commercial Law

December 16, 2012
McDonald Smith
Professor Emeritus, Art Department

December 17, 2012
Roselle M. Girard, 94
Staff, Bureau of Economic Geology

December 17, 2012
Dixie Stuart, 78
Staff, Physics, Linguistics and Biomedical Engineering

December 18, 2012
Betty Louise Kallgren Hixson, 87
Widow of Elmer Hixson, Professor Emeritus, Electrical and Computer Engineering

December 22, 2012
Robert Dorn Langston
Faculty, Psychology and Student Health Center

December 26, 2012
Janie Elizabeth Gustafson, 76
Wife of Cliff Gustafson, Baseball Coach

December 29, 2012
Anna Marietta Evans Langston, 88
Wife of Wann Langston, Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences

January 7, 2013
Marie Catherine Riley Gattuso Henery, 89
Staff, UT Library System

January 9, 2013
Edward "Ted" Odell, 65
Professor, Mathematics Department

January 12, 2013
Linda L. Glessner, 57
Director of the Division of Continuing and Innovative Education

January 12, 2013
William Jackson "Jack" Lord, 87
Professor Emeritus, College of Business Administration, Department of Information, Risk and Operations Management

January 14, 2013
Joe W. Neal, 96
Professor Emeritus, College of Communication Studies and Director of the Internal Office

January 19, 2013
George B. Thurston, 88
Professor Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering

January 20, 2013
Helen Adele Tackett, 86
Staff, UT News and Information Service

January 22, 2013
Dorothy Dibrell Bittick, 89
Staff, Intercollegiate Athletics for Women

January 25, 2013
James Ray Tamsitt, 84
Lecturer, Zoology and Biological Sciences

January 30, 2013
Gordon Wilkison, 82
Staff, Intercollegiate Athletics for Men

February 3, 2013
Robert Lee Batey, Jr., 90
Staff, Defense Research Lab

February 4, 2013
Winifred Ellen Carlson, 98
Staff, Director of Housekeeping

February 4, 2013
Suzanne Pearson Grantham, 62
Wife of Donald Grantham, Professor of Music

February 5, 2013
Alton Herman Neidig, 91
Building Attendant Leader in Building & Grounds Maintenance

February 6, 2013
Mary Ellen Boggins, 76
Staff, Director of Career Services, School of Information

February 9, 2013
Wanda Lois Womack, 81
Wife of Baxter Womack, Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering

February 13, 2013
Efraim Pacillas Armendariz, 74
Professor, Mathematics

February 14, 2013
Ruth Day Herbert, 88
Professional Librarian, Wife of George Herbert, Professor in School of Social Work

February 14, 2013
Gerda Marie Furmo McKern, 93
Administrative Associate in College of Education, and Wife of Anthropology Professor

February 17, 2013
Glynn Harmon, 79
Professor, School of Information

February 23, 2013
Eric Baker Becker, III, 80
Professor, Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics

February 27, 2013
Alice Earls Bridges
Procurement Officer, Applied Research Labs

February 27, 2013
Beulah Joyce Tucker, 80
Administrative Positions

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THANK YOU DONORS!

SCHOLARSHIP GIFT DONORS

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Marion DeFord	JoAnn Jentz	Lester Reed	Robert Tull
Lou & Jean DeMoll	Sharon Justice	Phyllis Richards	Barbara Wagner
Don Edmondson	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Kelton	Bonnie Rickelman	Howard Wilson
Vilma Falck	Billie Kenyon	Austen Riggs	Custis Wright
	Marilyn Landberg	Eugene Ripperger	



GIFTS TO THE RFSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Please consider making a contribution to the RFSA Scholarship Fund—it will make a difference in a student's life!

CONTRIBUTIONS Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator

MAY BE MAILED TO: Texas Exes | P.O. Box 7278 | Austin, Texas 78713

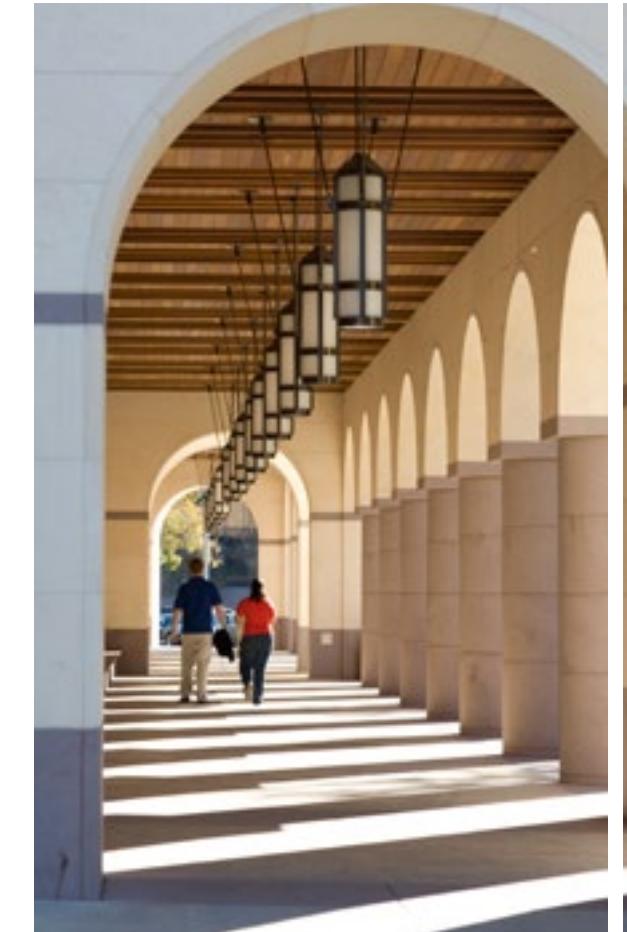
Generous RFSA member donations allow our organization to award annual scholarships to University of Texas students. Student recipients are selected by Student Financial Services based on several criteria. We were able to fund a record high of 17 scholarships in 2012-2013!

The scholarship fund benefits from donations made in memory of friends or colleagues, in celebration of particular events, in the form of a legacy from deceased members, or as a general contribution.

The following donations were received from September 1, 2012 through March 11, 2013.

MEMORIALS to **from** DONORS

Alice Bridges	John McKetta
Guenther Hoops	Alicia Moncayo-Hoops
Tilley Kelly	William Crook
Marietta Langston	Beeman & Sarah Phillips
Gerald Latimer	John McKetta
James Malone	William Crook
Pinkie McKetta	Deena Mersky
Joe Neal	John McKetta
Louis Roberts	John McKetta
Konrad Wissler	Beeman & Sarah Phillips
Wanda Womack	John McKetta
David Young	David Kincaid



CELEBRATORY HONORS to **JOHN MCKETTA** **from** DONORS

Miles Abernathy	Carol Kay Johnson
Judy Amis	Cecil & Geraldine Martinez
Carol Barettt	Deena Mersky
Frank Bash	Peggy Mueller
Martha Boyd	Tany Norwood
William Crook	Carol Obianwu
Susan Howard	Helen Spear

INVITATIONS TO JOIN

For alumni and friends who want to stay closely connected to the University, advocate on its behalf, and prove they bleed orange, there's membership in the Texas Exes.

SPECIAL TEXAS EXES OFFER FOR RFSA

As a member of the Texas Exes, you will receive news and programming geared to connect you to the University and its great alumni network—like the *Alcalde* member magazine, networking opportunities, a global system of chapters, and access to the UT Library System.

What's more, because of your years of service to the University

and current affiliation with the Retired Faculty-Staff Association, we are pleased to offer you an annual member rate of \$51—that's a \$9 savings off the standard \$60 rate. Membership dues help to support the many programs—like Camp Texas, student scholarships, community engagement, and advocacy on behalf of UT—that radically shape experiences and improve lives. Unlike shirts

that fade and games that end, a membership in the Texas Exes positively impacts you, the University, and the Longhorn faithful. And that's something you can feel good about.

Join at the UT Faculty-Staff rate of \$51 online at: www.TexasExes.org or by calling 512-471-3819.

THE CAMPUS CLUB WANTS YOU!

Do you remember those wonderful lunches at the Campus Club? You can still enjoy them, and many other benefits, at the new location!

The Campus Club is now in the Carillon Restaurant in the AT&T Conference Center, 1900 University Avenue. Membership includes one free lunch buffet per month, a free drink every Thursday in Gabriel's Café, free lunch parking, and many other benefits. The Dinner/Theater Packages provides dinner, transportation and prime seats to events at the Bass Concert Hall. Membership fees for retirees are only \$144 per year, and you would quickly save that entire fee with just a few visits to the Club.

The AT&T Conference Center and Club is located just off MLK Blvd. at the southwest corner of campus. Check out the website for more information (<http://www.utexas.edu/campusclub/>) or call 512-471-8611.

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Austin Heart | CardioTexas | Cardiovascular Specialists of Texas | Texas Heart & Vascular

IN CLOSING

The following individuals, departments, and businesses made generous donations of raffle items and door prizes for the RFSA Fall Luncheon and Meeting. Let's all give them our thanks and support!

Amanda Casey, massage therapist
Colleen Mehner, yoga classes
Della Spragner, tickets to play
Austin Symphony
Blanton Museum
Cookies in Bloom

Molca's Mexican Restaurant
NeWorld Cafe
Texas Exes
UT Club
UT Performing Arts Center
AT&T Conference Center and Campus Club

SPRING LUNCHEON REMINDER

Don't forget our spring luncheon and meeting!

Tuesday, April 30, 12:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.
Connally Room of the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center
Hosted by the Office of the President

"I LIKE TO BE WHERE THINGS ARE HAPPENING.
WESTMINSTER PUTS ME RIGHT THERE."

DR. MARTHA FREDE, RETIRED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SAGE PROGRAM
SEMINARS FOR ADULT GROWTH AND ENRICHMENT

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Initiative, imagination, individuality and independence are part of the fabric of our city. It's what makes our people so interesting and the Austin experience so irresistible. Westminster puts you in prime position to continue living this lifestyle. We're the only retirement community at the center of everything you love about Austin.

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THANK YOU



Thank you for sharing your influence, wisdom and friendship throughout our community. We are grateful for the wonderful things you do and say to support higher education at the University of Texas.

Cordially,
Rox, Duke & Danay Covert

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8107 Research ~ Austin, Texas
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Retired Faculty & Staff Association
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 RFSA provides a wide range of activities designed to enrich the retirement experiences of its members. In addition, it serves as a mechanism for advising UT officials about the suitability of current retirement benefits. A complete statement of the purposes of the Association can be found in the Constitution.

*Submissions can be emailed to: tanyenorwood@utexas.edu or mailed to: Carol Barrett | RFSA Coordinator
Texas Exes | P.O. Box 7278 | Austin, TX 78713*

