

RFSA MAGAZINE

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

FALL 2014

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RFSA MAGAZINE

VOLUME XXIX, ISSUE I

2014-15 RFSA BOARD

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CREDITS: Cover: Anna Donlan
Opposite: Emma and Don Harley at Mt. Hood,
photo by Carol Kay Johnson



Welcome to the Longhorn Retired Nation. That's what I've been calling us when I receive questions from people about what we are doing in RFSA (UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association). Of course, as a librarian, I am always fond of acronyms and initialisms so I have to stop myself to say

what RFSA means. I don't know about you but I am loving being retired and especially love being a member of RFSA. I am so happy to see friends and colleagues I've worked with on campus and meet new people.

We had a wonderful annual fall membership meeting and luncheon on October 21, 2014 in the Connally Ballroom at the Etter-Harbin Center, home of Texas Exes. I am especially grateful to the President's Office for sponsoring RFSA and funding our luncheon and to the Texas Exes staff who assisted and, in particular, Carol Barrett, our RFSA Coordinator, without whom we wouldn't be so successful. Jim Magnuson, director of the James A. Michener Center for Writers, spoke and also read from his latest book, *Famous Writers I Have Known*. At each membership meeting, Dean John McKetta generously provides five Attendance Awards, which are determined by a drawing at the meeting. The recent recipients of the McKetta Awards are Donna Holden, Della Sprager, Susan Gordon, Lynne Lange and Joan Smith. Thank you, Dean McKetta, for your generosity. We also gave raffle and door prizes to many of the folks who attended. All prizes were solicited or furnished by our Board members, committee and interest group chairs and other members.

This year we will have a different holiday reception at the Bauer House, the Chancellor's residence, in February 2015. I think wearing your heart on your sleeve

or dressing in something red would be appropriate. Our spring 2015 membership meeting and luncheon will be held in April. Watch for email invitations to both. I hope to see you.

I am very appreciative of the officers, committee chairs and interest group chairs of RFSA. Without their volunteer work, you would not be reading this magazine or seeing our web site (www.utexas.edu/rfsa), going on excursions near and far, playing bridge, participating in interesting and informative discussions on fascinating subjects, exercising with an instructor and many other things. I urge you to look at the web site and check out the Activity Calendar of our events and interest groups. If you have questions or want to join a committee, please contact one of the officers or the group's chairperson.

I am grateful, very grateful for your contributions to our Scholarship Fund. For the 2014-2015 we have increased our awards to sixteen students; fourteen scholarships for fall and spring, and two for the summer session. The total amount awarded for this year is \$37,000. Two of our scholarship students were able to come to our fall luncheon meeting and were humbly thankful for our assistance. They are both remarkable students and I'm certain the others are also. The growth of our scholarship fund is only possible because of YOU - your donations and that of our sponsors who advertise in our magazine and directory and the contributions from our Travel Committee. Thank you all for supporting our students at UT.

Thank you also for your contributions to charitable organizations through the University of Texas Hearts of Texas campaign.

Please invite other UT retirees to look at the website and invite them to join us. You, as members, are the best recruiters RFSA has. Call me or email me if you have questions or suggestions.

Peggy Mueller
RFSA President, 2014-15



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INTEREST GROUPS

BRIDGE

If you are a bridge player, come join us! We usually play the first Monday of each month, at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. *If interested, contact Bill Crook (wcrook@satx.rr.com or 210-251-3584).*

DISCUSSION



The Discussion group meets at 1:30 on the first Wednesday of each fall and spring month at Howson Library. We have a speaker to lead an informal dialogue on topics of general interest. We invite all members to join us and bring interested friends.

Our speaker for October was Dr. Nestor Rodriguez, Professor of Sociology at UT Austin, on the topic “Continuing Immigration Trends: A Guatemalan Immigrant Perspective.”

Dr. Rodriguez has conducted research in Mexico and Central America. His current work focuses on Guatemalan migrations, U.S. deportations, and ethical and human rights issues of border enforcement.

As this subject is much in the news in Texas, his talk brought it a human face. His stories and pictures with a longitudinal study of immigrants from Guatemala to Houston gave a valuable perspective. There was a lively Q&A by audience participants.

On November 5, our speaker, James W. Kunetka, is the author of six books including four novels. His non-fiction work includes histories of Los Alamos during World War II and Robert Oppenheimer’s public years, 1943-54. His topic was “Judging the Past: Robert Oppenheimer, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki.” August, 2015, will be the 70th anniversary of the end of WW II and the atomic bombings of Japan. Kunetka led a discussion of how we judge—or can we judge—one of the most interesting, enigmatic individuals of the last century, the terrible weapons he helped create, and the legacy of Japan.

The December guest is Dr. Daniel Johnston, Director of the Center for Learning and Memory, Institute for Neuroscience, at UT Austin. His topic is “Brain Research at UT Austin



and Communicating Results to the Public.” The Center for Learning and Memory is comprised of a core group of neuroscientists with the shared goal of understanding memory. The focus is research on brain mechanisms underlying learning and memory and how these are affected by brain injury, disease, and aging. *For more information or speaker suggestions, contact co-chairs Don Davis (dgdavis@ischool.utexas.edu) or Alice Reinartz (areinartz@tamu.edu).*

EXERCISE

Join the RFSA exercise group to improve your balance, flexibility and energy level! We 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 (cateswylie@gmail.com or 512-453-2556).*

FINANCE/INVESTMENTS

The Finance/Investments group meets the second Monday of each month at 1:30 at the Howson Branch Library. *For more information, contact chair Phil Kelton (pwkelton@gmail.com or 512-458-9961).*

FINE ARTS



“LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING: WHAT IS NOT ART?”

- Author Unknown

For the coming season the Fine Arts Interest Group will be dipping into a few more unusual activities. We have always enjoyed our specially guided museum and gallery tours, and we will certainly continue to plan for these. Of course, those who are interested can always visit museums, especially the local ones, on their own, as well. What we will be attempting in the coming months will be visiting the less accessible, less convenient, and perhaps less known, but nevertheless highly interesting locations and events.

Friday, November 7: We join a one day bus tour planned and sponsored by Westminster for its residents, to the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. The show, on loan from museums

in France, includes four important early impressionists. We are fortunate to be able to take advantage of the offer to join them, as the expense of acquiring our own long distance bus and driver is prohibitive. Leaving at 8:00 a.m., returning by 8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 14: Road trip to Texas State University, the Wittliff Collection at the Alkek Library. We are scheduled to meet with the curator of photography, who will guide us in viewing the current exhibit, which includes work of the outstanding Mary Ellen Mark.

Wednesday, December 17: Free passes from the management of the historic Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, now celebrating its 39th year.

Sunday, February 15: Theater Party, a matinee at St. Edwards to see Shaw’s “Misalliance”.

Specific details for these and additional events will be sent by email and added to the website. We look forward to seeing new and returning faces at these and other events in the coming months. The Fine Arts Interest Group has four members who plan events:

-Carolyn Wylie, who keeps RFSA members abreast of musical events in and around Austin, with emphasis on those that are free or low cost. (cateswylie@gmail.com);

-Judy Amis arranges the theater parties, usually including a happy hour or dinner. We’ve done this several times already – always fun for all, with easy access to the theater as well as a nearby restaurant. (judy.amis@yahoo.com);

-Laraine Lasdon, art docent extraordinaire; and

-Deena Mersky, Fine Arts Chair (merskd@gmail.com or 512-477-4152).

RFSA members are encouraged to contact any of us with ideas and suggestions for fine arts related possibilities. We also want to keep an email list of interested arts enthusiasts. Please let me know if you wish to be on such a specialized list. Best of all, join our committee to participate in planning some informative and enriching events!



“GREAT ART PICKS UP WHERE NATURE ENDS.”

– Marc Chagall

HEALTH

We have a busy fall! On October 20th, Laura J. Raymond, Manager of the St. David’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Center, spoke on the impact of heart disease, prevention, and managing the challenges through cardiac rehabilitation methods.



On November 17, we will have a gastroenterologist speaking on digestive systems. Our last speaker of the fall will be on December 15, when an Electro Physiologist will speak on A-Fib and other cardiac arrhythmias. We will remind you as the time nears for each lecture, and we hope you will plan to join us on the 3rd Monday of every month. Remember that it is important to keep ourselves healthy to enjoy the rest of our lives!

For information, contact co-chairs Cecil Martinez (cecil.martinez@sbcglobal.net) and Carol Obianwu (cobianwu@utexas.edu).

TRAVEL

The RFSA Travel Group offered members two very different types of excursions last summer.

On June 28, the group drove to Round Top for a concert at Festival Hill. This is always a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon. George Frock made the arrangements. We toured the grounds as well as the magnificent concert hall and had an opportunity to talk with James Dick, who had founded the Institute in 1971. The Festival Hill Orchestra presented a program that featured music by Tchaikovsky. We had the pleasure of attending the post-concert reception, thanks to the arrangements by Lamar Lentz. On the way back to Austin, we made a stop in Elgin for barbecue. All concluded it was a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon in June.

The RFSA travelers escaped Austin in August and boarded a plane bound for Portland, Oregon, long known as the “City of Roses.” Our first stop was the International Rose Test Gardens – acres of roses in bloom overlooking the downtown skyline.

Opened in 1917, it is the oldest official continuously operated public rose test garden in the US with 10,000 rose bushes representing over 650 different varieties – a perfect beginning for our Oregon Trails adventure. The next day we explored the Oregon coast, visiting the Tillamook Cheese Factory (a cheese lover’s paradise) that also has marvelous ice cream and enjoyed our lunch watching the waves roll in at Cannon Beach. Next stop was Fort Clatsop National Memorial commemorating the 1805-06 winter quarters for the 33 members of the Lewis and Clark expedition. We listened to a vivid narrative taking us back over 200 years. The next day Oregon rain blessed us as we drove out to visit the Mt. St. Helens Volcanic National Monument, but by the time we arrived at the Johnston Ridge Observatory, the sun was shining down and we could see for miles. The observatory features a film about the 1980 volcanic eruption and at the conclusion of the presentation, the screen goes up to reveal the most spectacular view of Mt. St. Helens.



There was one “day of leisure” where some decided to explore Portland at their own pace – visiting the Japanese Gardens (considered to be one of the most authentic Japanese Gardens outside of Japan), strolling downtown, perhaps stopping to get Voodoo Donuts, browsing Powell’s City of Books, experiencing the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon History Museum or the market along the waterfront. There is a definite Austin atmosphere in Portland reflected in their slogan “Keep Portland Weird!” – sound familiar?? (Austin adopted the slogan first and it did not appear in Portland until 2003.) That same day, many of the RFSA travelers boarded the bus for a tour to Mt. Hood. Once again we experienced clouds and drizzle, but when we emerged from the clouds, there was the mountain in all its glory. Mt. Hood is Oregon’s highest peak, is continuously covered with snow, has 11 glaciers, and is considered to be an active volcano. The US Olympic ski team practices on its slopes. We viewed the mountain from Timberline Lodge, a magnificent ski lodge that

is now a National Historic Landmark. It was a WPA project built during the Great Depression entirely by hand from massive timbers and rocks found in the wilderness. Craftsmen trained unskilled laborers to erect the lodge, and artisans were hired to create the original artwork and furniture that we see today. It was dedicated by Franklin Roosevelt on June 14, 1937. Present day visitors marvel at the huge beams, the height of the ceilings, the magnificent stone fireplace, and all the original attention to detail.

On our last day we explored along the Historic Columbia River Highway. First stop was awe inspiring Multnomah Falls, the highest waterfall in Oregon. The upper falls drop 547’ and the lower falls 69’. The water flows year round from the natural underground springs on Larch Mountain. Next stop was the Bonneville Dam,

another project dating back to the Great Depression that put people to work, produced power and created a navigable waterway. It was quite intriguing to view the Fish Ladders that facilitate the fishes’ natural migration around barriers such as dams and locks. Our last afternoon was spent aboard the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler cruising along the same Columbia River that Lewis and Clark had explored 200 years ago. The scenery was magnificent and all agreed it was a perfect way to end our Oregon Trails adventure! Submitted by Chair Carol Kay Johnson. (carolkayjohnson@earthlink.net)

CREDITS: pg. 6-7: Miles Abernathy; Opposite: Miles Abernathy, Betty Korts, Above: Betty Korts; Below: Frank Kutak



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FALL LUNCHEON • OCTOBER 21, 2014

Attendees of this year's RFSA Fall Luncheon enjoyed a delicious meal, followed by a delightful keynote speaker, Professor James Magnuson, Director of the James A. Michener Center for Writers. Magnuson also read excerpts from his latest book, *Famous Writers I Have Known*. A brief business meeting followed, then winners were drawn for raffle prizes, door prizes, and the McKetta Attendance Awards.

Support from the Office of the President and the Ex-Students' Association makes this luncheon possible. Thank you from all the members of the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association!

CREDIT: Miles Abernathy





CREDIT: New Members-at-Large Ruth Rubio and Terry Martin, both by Miles Abernathy



HELP WANTED

You might have noticed that our RFSA magazine has grown over the years. We have enjoyed being able to include more submissions from members, and the feedback from these changes has been positive. That means, however, that the workload has also increased for our magazine editor. We are looking for an Assistant Magazine Editor. This position will help with preparation of the RFSA Magazine, published twice per year. Skills and interests should include ability to write and edit articles as well as competence using a computer. Please contact Tany Norwood (tanynorwood@utexas.edu) if you might be interested in this position.

FROM OUR TREASURER

RFSA's financial position is very good, and we have been able to achieve this without significant increases to our membership fees. There are several factors that have contributed to our good financial position, and I would like to encourage you to continue to support our organization in the following ways:

- Join in on trips sponsored by our Travel Interest Group. A portion of the fees charged by the travel agency that coordinates the trips is returned to RFSA.
- Support our sponsors who advertise in our magazine. Buy their products and services, and be sure to let them know that you are an RFSA member and appreciate their support.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact Treasurer Cecil Martinez (cecil.martinez@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!

BOARD MEMBERS WORKING FOR YOU

The Retired Faculty-Staff Association Board meets several times each semester to take care of organization business and plan events. Please contact any Board member if you have questions, suggestions or ideas for our organization.

Judy Amis	JoAnn Haley	Tany Norwood
Donald Arthur	Carol Kay Johnson	Carolyn Palaima
Dudley Baker III	Sharon and Dean Justice	Alice Reinarz
Nancy Bell	Phil and Karen Kelton	Charles Roeckle
Betty Bennie <i>In honor of William Bennie</i>	Leon Lasdon	Ruth Rubio <i>In memory of Rudolph Rubio, Sr.</i>
Martha Boyd <i>In memory of Henrietta Jacobsen and Betty and Leon Morgan</i>	Barbara Lightsey	Jeanne Shaub
Marla Boye	Rezala Maamar-Tayeb	Lawrence Shepley
Billye Brown	Cecil Martinez	William Smith
Susan Clagett	Robert May	Della Sprager <i>In honor of John McKetta</i>
Rox Covert	John McKetta <i>In memory of Vincent DiNino and Howard Rase</i>	Kay Taebel
Don Davis	Deena Mersky <i>In memory of David Huff, Owen Cappleman, and Eugene Ripperger In honor of George Herbert and Louis DeMoll</i>	Robert Tull
Marion DeFord <i>In memory of Ronald DeFord</i>	Robert Mettlen	Dr. and Mrs. Norman Wagner <i>In memory of David Huff</i>
Ellen Doenges <i>In honor of Barbara Myers</i>	Peggy Mueller <i>In memory of George Earl Hardin</i>	Barbara White
Susann Doenges	Lewis Myers	Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Willman <i>In memory of Eugene Ripperger In honor of Barbara Myers</i>
Carol Fredericks		Carolyn Wylie

“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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The Retired Faculty-Staff Association created a scholarship fund in 1983 and awarded the first scholarship five years later in 1988. Members and friends donate to that endowment, which had a market value of over \$667,000 in 2014. Available income from that fund varies, depending on prevailing interest rates and market conditions.

For 2014-2015, we were able to award scholarships to 16 students, 14 for the Fall and Spring semesters (at \$1,250 per session) and 2 for the Summer session (at \$1,000 each), totaling \$37,000. Scholarship recipients are chosen by Student Financial Services based on several criteria.



CREDIT: Scholarship recipients Fiona Imarhia and Samuel Palka, by Miles Abernathy

In addition to undesignated donations, the scholarship endowment benefits from gifts made in memory or honor of family, friends and colleagues; in celebration of particular events; and estate donations. Please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund – it will make a difference in a student’s life!

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
MAY BE MAILED TO:

Carol Barrett, RFSA Coordinator
Texas Exes | P.O. Box 7278 | Austin, Texas 78713
- OR, DONATE ONLINE:

utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/utgiving/online/nlogon

In the “Gift Area”, scroll down and select “Retired Faculty-Staff Association”, then complete the other information requested. You also add information in the “Notes” section, such a birthday gift or honoring someone.

The following students received fall and spring scholarships, except as noted:

- Megan Alexander

Sophomore, Chemical Engineering
- Tyler Blackshire

Senior, Applied Movement Science
- Manuel Diaz

Senior, Physics and Mathematics (Summer scholarship)
- Jessica Heider

Senior, Mathematics and Electrical Engineering
- Kimberly Hong

Senior, Applied Learning & Development
- Fiona Imarhia

Senior, Pharmacy
- Jessica Olivares

Senior, Architectural Engineering (Summer scholarship)
- Justin Owens

Junior, Marketing
- Samuel Palka

Senior, Pharmacy
- Kaleigh Schuler

Junior, Biology
- Brittany Stubbs

Senior, International Relations & Global Studies
- Breeanna Thomas

Junior, Biomedical Engineering
- Martha Villalpando

Junior, Biology
- Audrey Vinall

Junior, Finance/Business Honors
- Ciara Wisecup

Senior, Biology

Excerpts from some of the recipients’ thank-you letters:

- “With my degree, I hope to help third world countries with their tragic lack of clean, drinkable water by finding a way to more efficiently and affordably purify and distribute water.”*
- “This scholarship is more than just financial support to help pay for my education; it is motivation and that is worth more than all the money in the world.”*
- “With this scholarship, I am better able to reach my goal of graduating as a biomedical engineer. In my profession, I plan to conduct research to improve the quality of human life, such as trying to determine if an unborn child is developing a vision impairment and possibly rectifying that deterioration before birth.”*
- “This gift will alleviate the financial burden that comes along with the journey that is college. It will also serve as a driving force – a daily reminder that people other than myself believe in me.”*

NOTE: Only 15 recipients are listed, because one student has restricted directory information.

Very Un-Scientific Survey

By Tany Norwood

Our members share some of their favorites!

What is your favorite day (or weekend) trip out of Austin?

Several members love San Antonio. Dick Furlong especially likes to visit in December, have dinner and see the Christmas lights along the San Antonio Riverwalk.

Round Top is a favorite for cultural events and an amazing antiques show. And heading farther in that direction, Houston’s museum district is a great place to spend a day, especially when it’s followed by a stay at Hotel Zaza!

The Texas Hill Country has several favorites. Fredericksburg is beloved (“especially in the spring”, says Margaret Berry) for great shopping and delicious food, especially the German specialties. The Fredericksburg Herb Farm makes a relaxing stop for lunch or a trip to the spa. The many wineries in the area are accessible via a shuttle that lets you linger as long as you want, then hop on the shuttle to the next vineyard. The Wildseed Farms sells seeds by the packet or the pound, as well as potted plants and everything you could want for your yard.

Barbara Myers loves another Hill Country destination, Blanco. She advises us to “take Hwy 290W to Henly, where you take a left turn onto the Henly Cutoff, which winds up and down through the Hill Country (no billboards!) to just south of Blanco. Drive into town, where there’s the wonderful Red Bud Café, an antique mall, the trail down to the Blanco River, and the beautiful building that used to be the Blanco County

courthouse until Johnson City managed to move the county seat away from Blanco.”

The Gulf Coast also beckons some members. Port Aransas is a short drive from Austin to a “laid back little town” and a perfect weekend getaway. Walking the beach, eating seafood (or maybe catching your own) and letting the waves lull you to sleep are highly recommended.

What is your favorite new musical album?

Oh, we have eclectic tastes! For those who prefer classical, violinist Anne Akiko Meyers is the featured violinist in a recent recording of Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons”, and it is a masterly performance. Another member loves “The 50 Greatest Pieces of Classical Music”, and purchases the periodic new versions as long as they contain Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony! “It is the perfect accompaniment to reading, writing or napping.”

Peggy Mueller loves the new Rodrigo y Gabriela album “9 Dead Alive”. The two amazing guitarists recorded this album in their Ixtapa studio, and it is a remarkable instrumental. Another recommendation was “Anything from Chris Isaak”. His vocal versatility and song choices make it difficult to fit him into a specific genre, but that is part of his appeal to his loyal following. Another genre-bending favorite is Melissa Etheridge, with her latest album “This Is M.E.” Her powerful vocals create a rocking-bluesy-soulful assortment of songs perfect for “driving around with the top down.”

We also received some recommendations about singers who are more well-known. Willie Nelson’s “Band of Brothers” is possibly “his best album in decades”. Besides, it is nice to support this fellow senior (he’s 81) who actually helped create the Austin music scene. Another well-known favorite is Barbra Streisand with her new album “Partners”. She sings duets with many

famous partners, and their combined voices will give you goosebumps. Two songs on this album deserve particular attention: her duet with her son, Jason Gould; and her computer-generated duet with Elvis Presley. Truly a terrific album to let your spirit soar.

Finally, several members stated that they haven’t bought music in years, but instead listen to some of the terrific local radio stations. Barbara Frock specifically

mentioned 91.3 KNCT FM from Killeen, “the Golden Oldies station. They don’t make ‘em like that any more!” And several people listen to the music stations available on TV via cable or satellite.

Thank you for all your feedback. If you have any ideas or questions for our spring survey, let us know! Send them to tanynorwood@utexas.edu.

Name Our Magazine?

Several possible names have been suggested for our RFSA magazine, including (in alphabetical order):

Chapter Two	EXult	RFSA Reflections	Second Verse
EXcite	Hearts and Minds	RFSA Review	Segue
EXplore	Retiree Reflections	Rockin’ Retirees	

We are still accepting name nominations, so please send us any other ideas. We will have members vote on their favorite name in our next member survey, with results in our Spring magazine. Send suggestions to Magazine Editor Tany Norwood at tanynorwood@utexas.edu.

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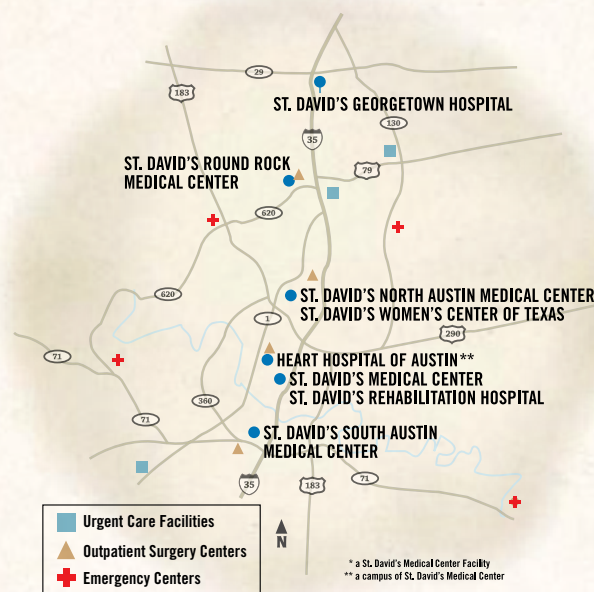
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FROM OUR MEMBERS

Zorena Bolton is a regular contributor to our magazine, and gifts us with these treasures.

Oh, I Remember Now

Zorena Bolton

I can still remember
I was still interested
In the subject of dying
That was before I got old
And couldn't remember
Now I've lost interest
And try to forget it

Once

Zorena Bolton

Once
We lay together
You holding me
In your arms
An innocent love
I can feel you
Beside me
Still

Once
We lay together on your bed
You holding me in your arms
This night I can feel you
Still



CREDIT: Miles Abernathy

7.9.14

Zorena Bolton

I sit on the patio outside the dining room in the mild air
I enjoy the flowers planted on the grassy surround
I hear the sound of trucks and cars rushing by
Watch branches bowing gently in the breeze

I've missed the bus and with it a chance to see the flowers
And like the flowers my chances too will end in time
For the gates the gates begin to close

Another spring exploding with flowers will come again
And their seeds will scatter in the wind and carry on
And like flowers we too will fade dry and crumble

But the seeds that have grown in our bodies
Seeds that have sprung from our minds and our hearts
I feel certain that they will in some small way live on

We have been taught not to feel sorry for ourselves
But no one wants to give up what they treasure
And there is nothing wrong with feeling sad

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dr. Anne Corn grew up in New York City, where many people think of their stoop as their front porch. She wrote this poem while remembering that spot.

Homage to the Stoop

Anne Corn

When I wish to travel diagonally
Not up or down or left or right
When I want my ball to bounce off an edge
Not a floor or a wall or ceiling
When I ascend two by two
Not 1 plus 1 plus 1 plus 1
When I get out my shovel
Not to slip and slide on snow and ice
When I see people together sitting
Not to feel the heat of their homes
When I want my bottom on a surface
Not to sit alone but to beckon company
When I contemplate the welcoming steps
I must pay homage to my stoop

Dr. Margaret C. Berry submitted “the first and only poem I have written!” It was first published in Twilight Musings in 2005, but captures our sentiments every campaign season.

Election Year

Margaret Berry

Election year is such a bore!
Too much talk and then some more.
Conventions, fund raisers, polls and such
Turn out to be just too darn much!

We need some statesmen, people with vision
Who can understand issues and make decisions
But how can I know who will do the job
When political correctness dictates the mob?

No wonder Thoreau, many decades ago,
Went to the woods, where life was slow.
Perhaps I'd fare better next election year
If I'd go to the hills and feed the deer.



CREDIT: Mount St. Helens by Betty Korts

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Celebration of the Life of Henrietta Jacobsen

by Terry Martin

On October 9, 2014, a reception was held at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center in memory of Henrietta Jacobsen and to recognize a gift from her to the Ransom Center.

Henrietta Jacobsen and her husband, Jens, moved to Austin in 1946 and joined a small group of Texas colleagues in founding the Defense Research Laboratory at UT. In 1954, Mrs. Jacobsen transferred from DRL to the position of Executive Assistant to President Logan Wilson. She went on to hold critical positions in the University administration for 27 years, serving as Director of Special Programs in the Office of the Chancellor for eight years.

In 1979, Mrs. Jacobsen recommended to the University President the establishment of an association of retired UT faculty, administration, and staff, and was appointed by then-President Peter Flawn to a ten member planning committee that unanimously recommended approval of the idea and drafted bylaws. She served as the UT Faculty-Staff Association's president in 1984.

In 1990, Mrs. Jacobsen was appointed by the Board of Regents to a three year term as a member of the newly organized Advisory Council of The University of Texas Ransom Humanities Research Center and served as the Council's first Chairman from 1990 to 1992. She was reappointed to a second three year term from 1993 to 1996, at which time she was given Honorary status. Henrietta's brother, John Senders, an energetic 90 year-old now of Toronto, Canada, presented a check in memory of Henrietta and her husband to Dr. Stephen Ennis, current director of the Ransom Center. Dr.

Ennis accepted the gift and promised to put the Jens and Henrietta Jacobsen Fund for the Humanities at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center to good use. He also suggested those present review the photos of Henrietta's life displayed in the lobby to get a better overview of her energy and sense of humor. A short film ran continuously in the theater showing Henrietta's participation in singing groups with a number of cherished friends.

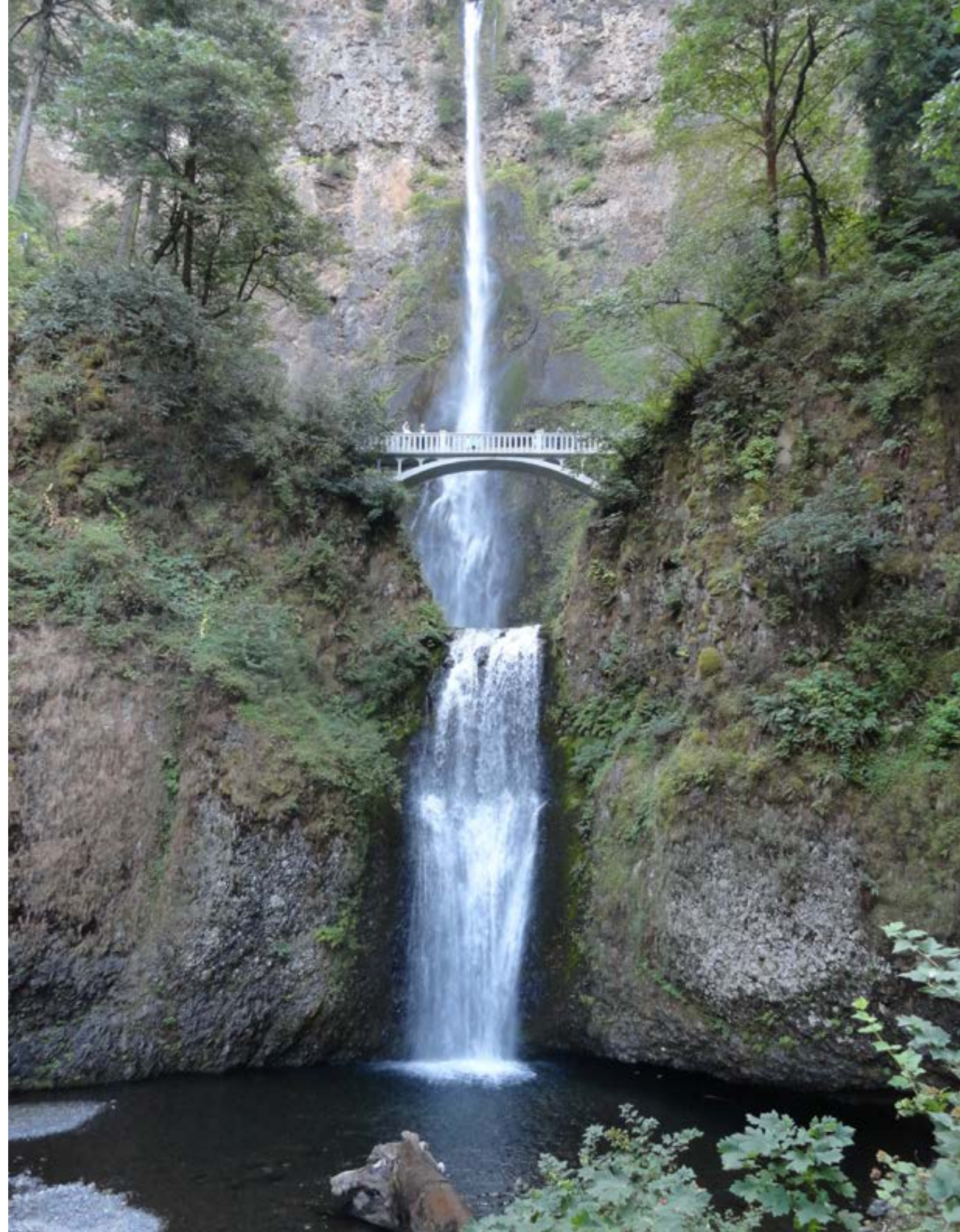
Professor Senders also announced that Henrietta had left the University of Texas Classics Department another bequest on behalf of her long-time companion,



Christian Smith, who died in 2012.

Nancy Scanlan, long-time friend and current member of the Ransom Center Advisory Board, also shared memories of Henrietta, who had been a very active citizen, serving as mayor of West Lake Hills and passionately involved in environmental affairs and activities affecting the quality of life in Austin.

CREDIT: Above: Miles Abernathy; Opposite: Betty Korts



Free Time, Anyone?

By Della Sprager

Do you remember when you were planning for your retirement? You might have dreamed of having great expanses of free time when you would accomplish wonders left neglected over the years. Guilt-ridden projects numbered top on your list of to-dos with all this anticipated “free time.” Not only did you develop that list, but others in your life started their lists for you, as well. I’m sure that now in hindsight, you wonder how you ever had time to work at UT at all! “Busy” is the name of the game, and with all there is to do, priorities seem hard to establish.

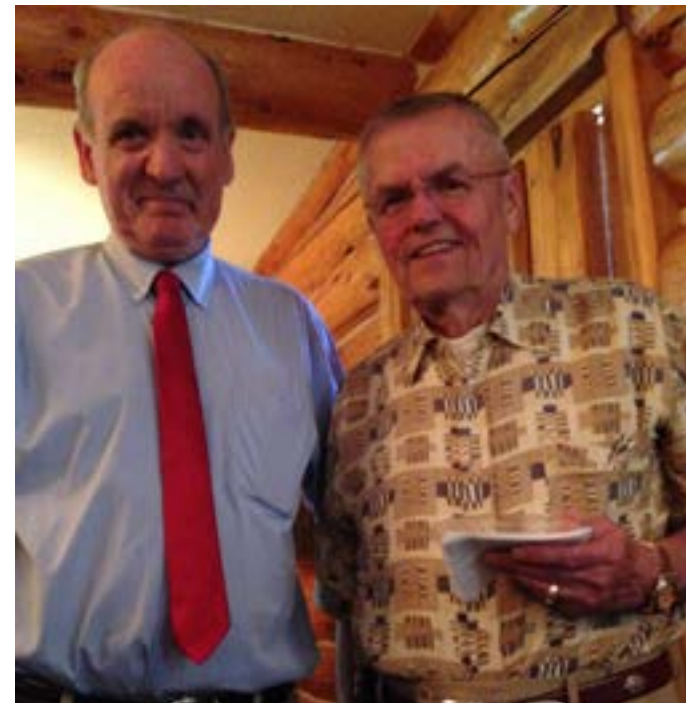
Just in case anyone reading this commentary actually has time to devote to something new and completely different—let me make a suggestion. Helping one or more of the 6,000 non-profits in Central Texas can be a wonderful way to expand our horizons. We can learn new skills, make new like-minded friends or strengthen old abilities. We often devote our time helping where our hearts lead us—and that certainly is a very good thing. Whatever time and energy you can find for a new experience as a volunteer can potentially enrich your life as it contributes to the life of your chosen

community.

With that in mind, the University has made it easy for all of us. You need not puzzle over ideas about what you might do with your “free time.” The Longhorn Center for Civic Engagement has an answer for any and all students, active faculty and staff, and yes, for UT retired faculty and staff, as well. In the privacy of your own home, you can visit their website at www.ddce.utexas.edu/civicingagement to learn what activities are coming up in the near future or for a long term commitment. Some of these opportunities will be University-focused, others will support the efforts of our broader community.

Think about it.

Think too if you have had some interesting volunteer experiences here in Austin that you would like to share with us by writing an article for the RFSA Magazine. Your story might encourage others to try it! Send your submissions or ideas to our editor, tanynorwood@utexas.edu.



CREDITS: Top: Festival Hill in Round Top; Middle: Lamar Lentz & George Frock; Singing the Eyes of Texas by Miles Abernathy

UT RETIREE PRIVILEGES

RFSA often serves as the voice for retirees, so your questions and issues are essential as we provide feedback on UT policies and changes that might impact us. Our organization also serves as a mechanism for advising UT officials about the suitability of current retirement benefits.

Our organization often serves as the voice for retirees, so your questions and issues are essential as we provide feedback on UT policies and changes that might impact us. We were recently contacted by two different RFSA members with questions about privileges available to retirees, so we are providing this overview.

In addition to insurance benefits, retirees have the following privileges:

- Maintain a university e-mail address
- Use University libraries with your UT ID card
- Use the Employee Assistance Program for confidential counseling
- Be a member of the UT Retired Faculty-Staff Association
- Purchase tickets for many events at the Performing Arts Center at a discounted price
- Attend most intercollegiate sports events at a discounted rate, with your UT ID
- Purchase a discounted Recreational Sports Facility Permit
- Audit courses, if age 65 or older, without charge if space is available
- Apply for a parking permit at a reduced rate
- Register for computer courses at the Thompson Conference Center and pay the faculty/staff rate
- Receive a 10% discount at the University Co-Op on everything except textbooks, with your UT ID
- Ride Capital Metro buses for free, with your UT ID

UT’s Office of Human Resource Services has the most current and complete information on all privileges and benefits. You can view additional information on the above privileges online at www.utexas.edu/hr/retiree/services/privileges.html. This web page is also linked from the RFSA web page and has links to all of the offices providing those services. Or call HRS at 512-471-4772.



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Creed Willis Abell, PhD., 80
Professor Emeritus, Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry
September 9, 2014

Kathryn Helen Francis Charnes, 90
Widow of Abe Charnes, Jesse H. Jones Professor, McCombs School of Business
February 6, 2014

Michael Thomas Chesney, 84
Senior Lecturer, Economics
August 6, 2014

Raymond D. Crisara, 93
Professor Emeritus, Trumpet, Butler School of Music
May 25, 2014

Vincent R. DiNino, 95
Professor Emeritus, Longhorn Band; First faculty status director of LHB
September 9, 2014

Li Ming Eckert, 74
Senior Administrative Associate, Office of the Dean, McCombs School of Business
April 28, 2014

Robert Edward “Bob” Evans, 72
Zoology
March 22, 2014

Jane George, 88
Administrative Assistant, Astronomy
July 1, 2014

Alpha Gonzalez, 84
Executive Assistant to the Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department
April 16, 2014

Herbert Grove, Jr., 92
Adjunct Professor, Chemical Engineering
May 13, 2014

Valaree Commander Guy, 94
Widow of William T. Guy, Jr., Professor of Mathematics
September 14, 2014

George Earl Hardin, 80
Husband of Joyce Harris, Communication Science and Disorders
August 30, 2014

Curtis L. Hennig, 95
Maintenance Supervisor
February 22, 2014

David L. Huff, 83
Professor Emeritus, Marketing
August 15, 2014

Leonard William “Bill” Kauffman, 63
Project Manager, Applied Research Laboratories
July 29, 2014

Sarah Nancy Key, 65
Associate Director, Division of Housing and Food Service
September 5, 2014

Joseph J. Lagowski, 83
Professor Emeritus, Chemistry
April 29, 2014

Pearl Elizabeth Lewallen, 89
UT Switchboard
May 4, 2014

Robert Claude “Bob” MacDonald, 72
Adjunct Associate Professor, Petroleum Engineering
June 20, 2014

Katie Margaret (Gladney) McGuire, 99
Widow of Noel C. McGuire, Professor Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering
July 6, 2014

Beryl Buckley Milburn, 93
UT Board of Regents
March 27, 2014

R. Edward Nather, 88
Professor Emeritus, Astronomy
August 13, 2014

Raymond Neubauer, 72
Senior Lecturer, Biology
July 13, 2014

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.

Christina “Chris” O’Connell, 87
Division of Housing and Food Service
May 11, 2014

Catherine Joyce Patton, 81
Institute for Fusion Studies
June 18, 2014

Howard F. Rase, 92
W.A. (Bill) Cunningham Professor Emeritus of Engineering
May 6, 2014

Agnes Lytton Reagan, 99
Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science
December 13, 2013

Donna Lee Reber, 71
Administrative Associate, Chemistry and Biochemistry
April 21, 2014

Nancy E. Roberts, 65
Administrative positions in Center for Teaching & Learning and Electrical Engineering
August 21, 2014

Kathryn “Kathy” Rogers, 73
Accountant, UT Office of Accounting
March 20, 2014

Grace Elizabeth Zirkel “Betty” Rylander, 93
Widow of Grady Rylander, Joe J. King Professor of Mechanical Engineering
June 23, 2014

Maria Francisca “Frances” Salas, 76
Administrative positions in Humanities, Office of the Registrar and Official Publications
May 23, 2014

Joseph Evans Slate, 86
Associate Professor, English
July 16, 2014

Dr. Ernest Thomas “Ernie” Smerdon, 84
VP for Academic Affairs, UT System; Professor, Civil Engineering; Director, LBJ School of Public Affairs
August 11, 2014

Beverly Stearman
Wife of Ronald Stearman, Aerospace Engineering
September 14, 2014

Nancy Ewing Sutton, 95
Widow of John F. Sutton, Law Professor
September 21, 2014

Alfred E. Traver, Jr., 74
Senior Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering
September 9, 2014

Dr. Charles A. Walton, 88
Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy
July 31, 2014

Madeline M. Wermuth, 27
Administrative Associate, Student Records
January 9, 2014

Meda Miller White, 79
Widow of Philip L. White, Professor Emeritus of History
July 27, 2014

Mary Alice Ziegler, 85
Widow of Dan Ziegler, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry
March 27, 2014



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