

## Summer 2025

## RET – EXPRESS

From the Association President – Lisa Theriot



Welcome to the Summer edition of the

Dallas College Retiree Association newsletter! I hope your spring/summer is going well. I've been planting a vegetable garden again this year and bringing my plants back outside. I joined the Mesquite Garden Club last year, so I'm learning some new tips and tricks!

I have some exciting news! Some of you may know that JD Haight had to step down from the President-Elect position this past year. We thank JD for his service to our organization. I have recently appointed Robert Young as our new President-Elect. Robert, as many of you know, was the attorney for the Dallas County Community College District for many years. He has been active in the Association and has attended many events with his wife, Jeanette. Please thank Robert when you see him for stepping up to this new opportunity.

In that same vein, Don Baynham has been working with Diane Graifemberg and Georgia Francis on the nominating committee for the new board that will be voted on at our December meeting. Keep an eye out for more information on their progress in the Fall newsletter.

And speaking of the Holiday Luncheon in December, don't forget we have changed the location of the event to the Celebration Restaurant in Northwest Dallas. It will be on December 9<sup>th</sup> this year. The cost will be a little less than in previous years, so we are hoping for a big turn-out.

Stay cool this summer! Enjoy the newsletter! Please let me know if you need anything.

Lisa Theriot

President, Dallas College Retiree Association

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## Dr. Justin Lonon, Chancellor



Greetings,

We have made it to the end of the semester, and I couldn't feel prouder and more energized after our commencement ceremonies. When our students walk across the stage, it truly helps reinforce the purpose behind our work and why we do what we do.

As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of Dallas College's Class of 2025, we take pride in the dedication and perseverance of our graduates. With 11,000 students eligible to graduate—including nearly 200 earning bachelor's degrees in education and nursing—this class is shaping the future in critical fields. Over a quarter of these graduates are first-

generation college students, busting barriers and paving the way for a brighter future. Their success speaks volumes about the transformative power of education.

In keeping with our commitment of providing accessible, high-quality learning opportunities, Dallas College is proud to introduce the [Bachelor of Applied Technology in Software Development](#)—a forward-thinking program designed to equip students with in-demand skills like software design, machine learning, data analytics, and data visualization. As our third bachelor's degree program, this offering provides a strong foundation for a career in the rapidly evolving tech industry, where software developer jobs are projected to grow by 17% by 2033. Texas has become a major hub for tech talent, with more than 138,000 software developers statewide and nearly 60,000 in the region. With entry-level salaries averaging \$77,000, there's no better time or place than right now to start a career in software development. We are and will proudly always be a community college. Offering these bachelor's degrees provides new opportunities for students who might not have them otherwise.

As more businesses continue to expand into our area, Dallas College remains committed to supporting our ever-growing workforce by ensuring graduates are job-ready with the skills necessary to thrive in high-paying, in-demand careers.

Last but certainly not least, I want to draw your attention to one of our newest initiatives: the Dallas College Speakers Bureau. This valuable service offers expert speakers, thought leaders, and engaging presentations on a wide range of topics, all free to the community. Whether it's industry insights, leadership development, or educational inspiration, we provide dynamic speakers who can bring fresh ideas and meaningful conversations to your gatherings. With both virtual and in-person options available, it's a convenient way to enrich your organization, social group or community. [Visit the Speakers Bureau website](#) today to explore topics and request a speaker!

It's safe to say we have a lot to celebrate at Dallas College, and a lot to look forward to! I hope each of you has a great summer!

Be well,  
Dr. Justin H. Lonon

# ABOUT US

## Gus Katsigris, a Retiree ECC



This photo appeared on the cover of the Sunday Magazine of the Dallas Times Herald on May 16, 1971. This framed photo will be hung at El Centro College to acknowledge Gus Katsigris' long support of the program. Chancellor Justin London presented a second framed photo to Gus on February 27, 2025.

## Ann Hatch, a Retiree DO

### Dallas College retiree honored by CASE District IV

Ann Hatch, former district director of media relations for Dallas College, recently received the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District IV Hall of Fame Award for 2025. The award recognizes an individual's service to that organization and to higher education as a career.

"We're thrilled to celebrate Ann Hatch as recipient of the Hall of Fame Award," said Carrie Harris Phillips, chair of CASE District IV. "We thank her for her leadership, service and deep commitment to educational communications."

"I am so honored to be recognized by CASE, whose members helped me build a career that focused on telling great stories about students, faculty and staff," said Hatch. "I believe that CASE also means that we collaborate, assist, support and engage with others - something my CASE friends taught me along the way."

Hatch, who retired in 2019, worked with reporters and news media outlets for 35 years, first at Auburn University at Montgomery, then Texas Woman's University and, most recently, Dallas College. For more than three decades, she managed crisis communications; her other responsibilities included news, internal and external communications, writing, editing, speech writing, script writing and specialized communications for the Chancellor's office.





Phillips added, “Ann also has been a dedicated CASE District IV volunteer: board member, conference chair, judging coordinator, presenter — you name it, she’s done it. Her impact also extends through the Texas Association of Community College Marketers and the CASE Community College Conference.”

After she retired, Hatch also received the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations Petrizzo Career Service Award in 2020. She currently writes for Denton County Magazine.

Hatch holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in political science from Auburn University at Montgomery. She has received more than 75 awards from CASE, NCMPR, PRSA (Public Relations Society of Alabama), IABC-Montgomery and other organizations.

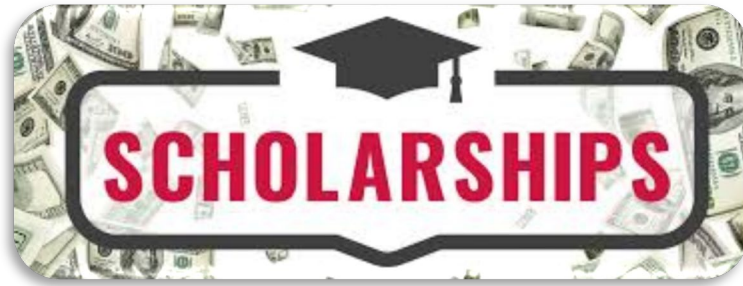


### **Dallas College Retiree Association Officer Nominations for 2026-2028**

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Don Baynham, Georgia Francis, and Diane Graifemberg, submits the following candidates for the Association’s officer positions for 2026-2028.

For the first term:

President	Robert Young
President-Elect	Thomas Anderson
Treasurer	Robert Gonzalez
Secretary	Ann Johnson



## **Mariam Ramadan**

Dear Members of the Dallas College Retirees Association,



I am incredibly honored to be the recipient of the Dallas College Retirees Association Endowed Scholarship. Your generosity and commitment to supporting students like me is deeply appreciated and serves as a testament to the enduring impact of the Dallas College community.

As a Computer Science major at Dallas College, I am dedicated to excelling academically and actively participating in leadership roles. This scholarship significantly reduces the financial stress of pursuing my education, allowing me to focus on achieving my goals of transferring to a four-year university and eventually contributing to advancements in artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction.

Your support is not just financial; it is motivational. It reminds me that I am part of a community that values education and recognizes the potential in students. It inspires me to give back and make a difference, just as you have done for so many students over the years.

Thank you for your generosity and belief in my ability to succeed. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and carrying forward the values of excellence, service, and dedication that this scholarship represents.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Mariam Ramadan



## Texas Discovery Garden

By Norm Howden, ECC Retiree



The Discovery Gardens, better known to many as the "Butterfly House", added garden trains to its displays several years ago. Ron Natinsky donated the trains which Norm and other members of the North Texas Garden Railroad Club often operate. Trains operate on

weekends and during certain holidays and school breaks. Norm doesn't currently have a personal garden railroad, so this gives him the chance to put on a conductor hat and talk to people about trains. The Gardens are a fun place to visit with special events throughout the year and often serve as a special place for personal events like weddings. Since it is a 501c3 nonprofit, their programs benefit from plenty of volunteer effort, and there is a thriving volunteer community.

<https://txdg.org/>



**New Retirees: Welcome!** We know you've looked forward to the day when you didn't have to get up early to go to work. Relax, you can now sleep as late as you want, take all those exciting trips that you've planned, and simply enjoy the good life of retirement. Our retiree association welcomes you to retirement and hopes you will join our organization.

### Employees who retired from January 2025 through May 2025

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LOCATION	RETIREMENT DATE
Chen	Shih-Liang	DSC	02/28/2025
Holland	Lea	DSC	01/31/2025
Laffoon	George	BJP	03/31/2025
Price	Vincent	BHC	03/31/2025
Ragler	Horace	DSC	01/17/2025
Russell	Errol	DC	03/31/2025
Scales	Glenda	BHC	02/28/2025
Slejko	Christa	NLC	01/31/2025
Wise	Sylvia	ECC	04/30/2025

# Events



## The Biblical Institute of Arts

The Biblical Institute of Arts. The museum was founded in 1967 by Mattie Caruth Byrd. It was formerly known as the **Biblical Arts Center**. In 2005, a fire destroyed the museum and 2,500 works

of art. The museum was rebuilt and reopened in 2010 in a modern building with eleven galleries and 30,000 square feet of exhibition and event space.



## The Crow Museum

The retirees had the opportunity to visit the Crow Museum located on the campus of the University of Texas at Dallas in the (also new) Edith and Peter O'Donnell Athenaeum. It was enjoyed by all and followed with lunch at La Madeleine.

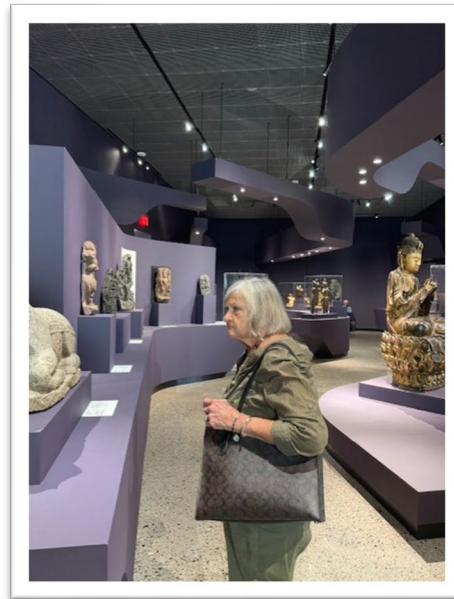


Events  
The Crow Museum





Events  
The Crow Museum





## The Garland Depot

On March 7 a group of retirees toured the Garland Landmark Museum, housed in the city's 1901 Santa Fe Depot. In addition to the depot itself, tour goers heard the history of Garland, viewed numerous artifacts from the city's past, and saw the museum's 1911 Santa Fe railcar. Lunch at Dos Banderas, a local Tex-Mex restaurant, followed the tour.

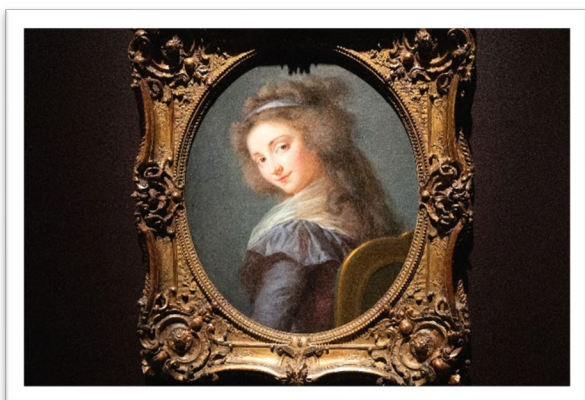
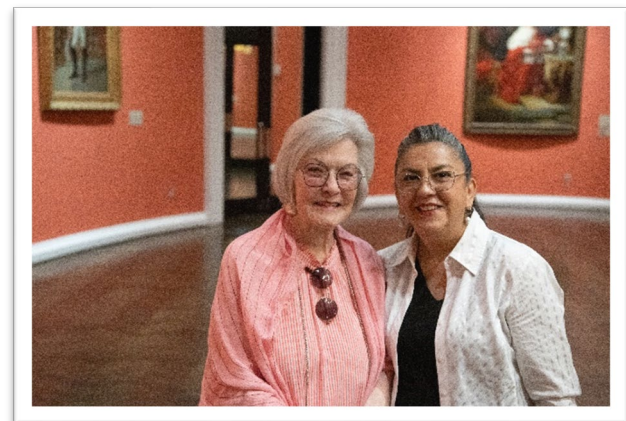
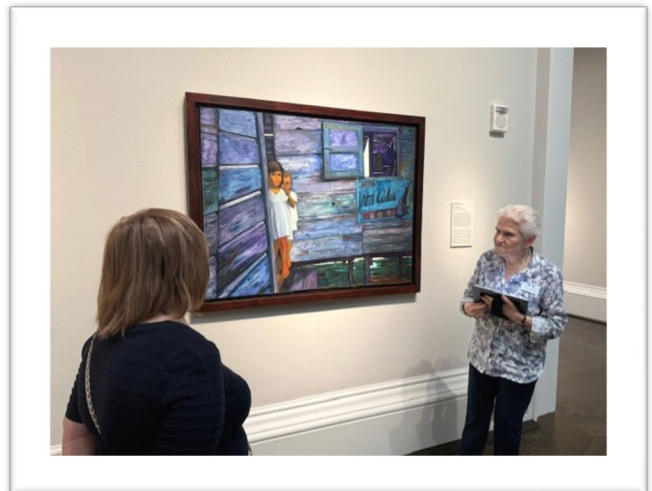






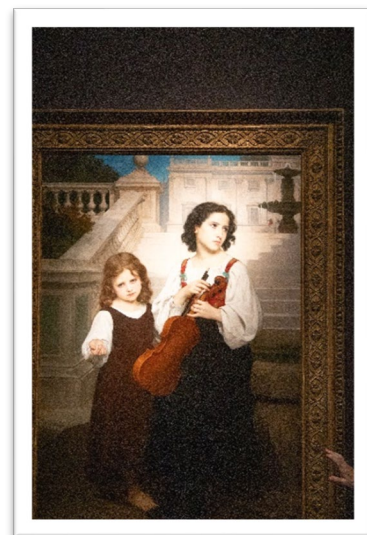
## The Meadows Institute

Retirees visited the Meadows Museum on June 7, 2025. The title of the exhibition was "The Sense of Beauty: 6 Centuries of Painting from Museo de Arte De Ponce." A docent-guided tour was scheduled. The group followed the visit with lunch afterward at La Madeleine!





## Meadows Institute (Continued)





**Dallas College Retiree Association  
Spring Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Theriot, President

Lisa recognized our special guests – Justin Lonon, Chancellor; Jonathan Blundell who is the IT person who sends out our mass emails; Lori Tatsch, Foundation Scholarship Office. Robert Gonzalez was also recognized as the Association Treasurer Nominee for 2026-28.

Georgia Francis read a thank-you letter from the student who received the RA scholarship. It was an exceptional letter (attached); the student was not able to attend the lunch.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Diane Graifemberg. Simple report; no questions. Diane said she will look into putting some of our money into money-making accounts, if available through Chase Bank. Might not be much money, but could be a little income.

Lisa asked that each person review the minutes of the Holiday meeting (copies on the tables). If no corrections, Lisa asked for a motion to accept both the minutes and the treasurer's report. Robert Young motioned to accept both; Delryn Fleming seconded.

Both items were approved.

New Business. Lisa announced that this year's holiday luncheon/meeting will be held at Celebration Restaurant on December 9, 2025. the Fall newsletter will have more information about items on the menu. There will be a choice of one of three entrees, vegetables will be served family style, and there will be two dessert selections. The price will be \$30 or \$35. Maggiano's has increased its price by \$5 each year for three years.

Rosie Steffen asked about the issue of some medical facilities/doctors not accepting Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance now. Justin spoke to this issue – UTSW, which is one of the biggest in areas involved in this issue, is in ongoing negotiations with BCBS. More information will be forthcoming.

Don Baynham has scheduled a tour of the Hatco factory in Garland on October 10, 2025; a copy of the information is on each table; please sign if interested in attending and leave the form on the table.

Bob Chambers has scheduled a docent-led tour at the SMU Meadows Museum on June 7, 2025, at 11 a.m. The current exhibit ends in mid-June.

Rosie Steffen and Lisa distributed door prizes to those with winning tickets.

The meeting was adjourned by Lisa.

## Retiree Association Executive Board and Event Coordinators

<b>Retirees Association Executive Board</b>		<b>Retirees Association Event Coordinators</b>	
<i>President</i>	<b>Lisa Theriot</b>  <a href="mailto:Lmtheriot@msn.com">Lmtheriot@msn.com</a> (214) 537-4294	<i>Theater</i>	<b>Vacant</b>
<i>President-Elect</i>	<b>Robert Young</b> <a href="mailto:ryoung@retiree.dcccd.edu">ryoung@retiree.dcccd.edu</a> (214) 538-2506	<i>Special Events/ Luncheons</i>	<b>Rosie Steffen</b>  <a href="mailto:rosie.steffen.rn@gmail.com">rosie.steffen.rn@gmail.com</a> (972) 699-9549  and  <b>Georgia Francis</b>  <a href="mailto:gsfrancis@aol.com">gsfrancis@aol.com</a> (214) 505-1766
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Linda Savage</b>  <a href="mailto:ljsavage50@gmail.com">ljsavage50@gmail.com</a> (972) 989-0032	<i>Museum</i>	<b>Bob Chambers</b>  <a href="mailto:bchambers101@verizon.net">bchambers101@verizon.net</a>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Diane Graifemberg</b>  <a href="mailto:dgraifemberg@gmail.com">dgraifemberg@gmail.com</a> (972) 816-0546	<i>Social Media</i>	<b>Norm Howden</b>  <a href="mailto:rrgrandad@gmail.com">rrgrandad@gmail.com</a>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<b>Glenda Easter</b>  <a href="mailto:geaster@retiree.dcccd.edu">geaster@retiree.dcccd.edu</a> (214) 532-6733	<i>Historical Tours</i>	<b>Don Baynham</b>  <a href="mailto:donbaynham@outlook.com">donbaynham@outlook.com</a>
<i>Past President</i>	<b>Rodger Bennett</b>  <a href="mailto:rpbfape@gmail.com">rpbfape@gmail.com</a> (214) 886-6893		

### Dallas College Retiree Association Website

Check out all the events before their occurrence by visiting the Dallas College Retiree Website at:  
<https://www.dallascollege.edu/employees/retirees/pages/default.aspx>





Save the date: **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**. The Retiree Association hopes you will participate in the upcoming Holiday Luncheon at **Celebration Restaurant**, 11:00 a.m. Details and the registration form will be in the fall newsletter.



## Fall Tour Resistol Hat Factory

As of now, our Fall tour is full. However, I will maintain a waiting list, as real life often steps in and causes folks to drop out.

If you wish to be on the waiting list, email me at:

[donbaynham@outlook.com](mailto:donbaynham@outlook.com).



**Watch for an announcement this fall about this event at the  
Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza**



People walk past the President's casket at the U. S. Capitol, children's crayons on paper.

## **Colorful Memories**

**November 22, 1963 Through a Child's Eyes**

In the wake of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, filmmaker and writer Richard Snodgrass embarked on a unique project to document how young children perceived and processed the historic event. Partnering with Sacred Heart School in Prescott, Arizona, Snodgrass worked with a diverse class of first-grade students, capturing their verbal responses and their illustrated memories. The exhibition showcases original 1963 crayon drawings alongside a short film, *A Child's Eyes: November 22, 1963*, a recent donation to the Museum from the family of the project's art director, Hank Richter. This special installation, on view in the Museum's Seventh Floor Gallery, offers a rare and poignant look at history through the lens of childhood, highlighting a recent and unique addition to the Museum's growing collections.

## **We Extend Our Sympathy to the Families of Those Retirees Who Have Passed Away**



### **Retirees of Dallas College Who Have Passed Away**

- Judy Pool, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 01/11/2018.
- Patricia Acrea, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 01/28/2024.
- Clifton, “Clif” Weaver, a retiree of NLC, passed away on 05/21/2024.
- Alice Villadsen, a retiree of BHC, passed away on 01/28/2025.
- Mary Lou Neil, a retiree of EFC, passed away on 03/07/2025.
- Joe Ward, a retiree of DSC, passed away on 03/24/2025.
- John Harwood, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 04/01/2025.
- Wilene Landfair, a retiree of RLC, passed away on 04/20/ 2025.
- Kathryn (Kathy) Hegar, a retiree of MVC, passed away on 05/26/2025.

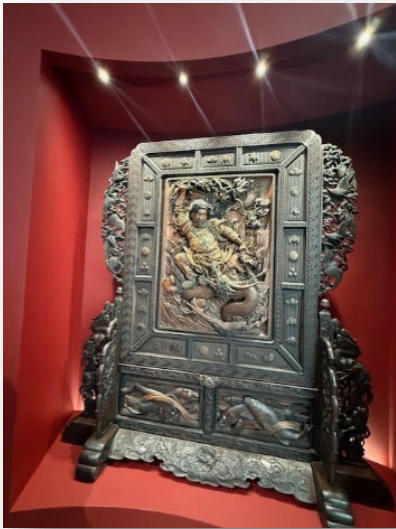
### **Retiree Family Members Who Have Passed**

- Bob Woefle, husband of Shirley Woefle, a retiree of BJP, passed away on 03/14/2025.
- Joe Ward, husband of Carolyn Ward, a retiree of CVC, passed away on 03/24/2025.



## Retiree Association Events

### The Crow Museum



### Meadows Institute





## Holiday Luncheon





## Holiday Luncheon (Continued)



Be on the lookout for events posted on the [Retiree Website and the Dallas College Retiree Association Facebook page.](#)

[For help joining contact Norm Howden at rrgrandad@gmail.com](mailto:rrgrandad@gmail.com)