

ALUMNI NEWS

Ongoing Ed health insurance seminar draws full house

● Second quarterly seminar will be held again due to popular demand.

A sold-out crowd packed the TI Alumni Association Ongoing Education Committee seminar on health insurance and Social Security June 29 at Texans Credit Union Center. Since some individuals were turned away at the door, a second seminar on health care and Social Security will be held in the near future.

The seminar featured speakers from the TI Human Resources Service Center (HRSC), which administers the TI Health Plan; Automated Data Processing (ADP), which does enrollment, billing and address changes; Aetna U.S Healthcare, which handles claims; and the Social Security Administration.



Guests at the Ongoing Education Committee's health insurance seminar included (l-r) Dorry Keene, TI; Lona Hooley, ADP; Kevin Goldman, TI; Tom Clark, Social Security Administration; Bea Davis, Aetna, U.S. Healthcare and committee chair Jerry Pierce.

Retiree Website

Pam Melzer, Dorry Keene and Kevin Goldman of HRSC gave an overview of information available on the TI Retiree Health and Wellness web site (w3.ext.ti.com/hr).

This website, kept up to date by TI retirees Gene Ricci and Bill Stearns, offers Internet access to directories of TI Health Plan network providers, including doctors, hospitals and pharmacies.

Retirees can click on "What's New" to find out about cancer screenings, flu shots, open enrollment and other benefits information; "Contact Info" for phone numbers of benefits providers; or "FAQ" for answers to frequently asked questions about benefits.

For more information, refer to "Where to call," Page two.

Open enrollment

Lona Hooley of ADP announced the schedule for open enrollment in the TI Health Plan for 2001:

Sept. 23: Packets mailed to

retirees.

Oct. 16: Phone lines open.

Oct. 23: open enrollment starts.

Nov. 20-Dec. 1: Change period to select options for 2001.

Jan. 1, 2001: New elections become effective.

Lona said the plan changes will be listed in the open enrollment packet and added, "If you don't want to make changes in your coverage, you don't need to do anything."

Retirees turning 65 in the year 2000 will have their elections included in the open enrollment process.

Lona also addressed the topic of cancellation of TI health insurance due to non-payment, and explained the appeal process that may sometimes result in termination of health insurance coverage.

If this occurs, Lona suggested

that participants first respond in writing to the notice of termination. They will receive a confirmation when that letter is received and logged in. A response to that appeal will be mailed to the participant within 30 days.

If the appeal is denied, participants can again write ADP a letter, which will be sent to TI along with the other paper. TI will log that appeal and respond with a final decision within 30 days.

Anyone in the situation of having insurance canceled can contact Lona at 800-631-6965 to obtain the required forms.

"We are here because we want you to stay covered," she said.

Claims processing

Bea Davis of Aetna U.S. Healthcare talked about medical and dental claims processing and

customer service, explaining that they try to maintain a 14-day turnaround on claims. All claims are handled on a first in, first out basis, and use a TI badge number, not a Social Security number, for processing.

Aetna customer service representatives respond to calls on the TI Health Answer Line, metro 817-467-6846 or 800-433-5008. Retirees can get TI insurance cards by calling the Health Answer Line.

Aetna began forwarding prescription claims to PCS, a prescription benefits services provider, beginning Jan. 1, 2000.

It was announced that PCS will send out prescription drug cards in December to TI Health Plan participants. The PCS cards will be honored by network pharma-

See HEALTH INSURANCE, PAGE a3

Ongoing programs

● Committee plans additional seminars for TI retirees.

When the Ongoing Education Committee formed last year, the goal was to provide interesting and timely information that TIers wanted to know. Judging from the rapid growth of the quarterly seminars, that goal has been reached. In fact, to accommodate the burgeoning attendance, the next seminar, set for Oct. 4, is being moved to the larger Plano Centre at 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.

"When we first met in September (1999), we asked what people wanted to know about and they told us," explains Jerry Pierce, chairman of the committee. "That's why it has grown so quickly and done so well, because we are giving the people exactly what they told us they wanted."

On Oct. 4, the third program will look at two important topics for retirees: Medicare benefits and long-term disability insurance. The seminar is free but reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 214-946-TIAA.

Sandi Mason of the Social Security Administration will discuss the topic of benefits from Medicare, while Mary Dietz, a spe-

See SEMINARS, PAGE a3

Membership in TI Alumni Association nears 1,400

● TIAA membership goes world-wide.

At press time, the membership of the TI Alumni Association had soared to almost 1,400 members. With the ease of online registration, many new members are signing up via the Internet.

About 90 percent of the TIAA members are located in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. However, some 120 members live elsewhere in Texas, and 46 live outside of Texas. One member resides in Switzerland.

John Byers, Vice President, Membership, for the TIAA, commented, "Our priority this year has been to focus on the North Texas area, but our vision is to eventually have an international organization, connecting retirees around the world. Our next step is to work with retirees in major TI locations, such as Houston and Austin, to see if there is interest in forming local chapters. We

TIAA by the numbers

As of the end of July, the TIAA has 1,322 members.

1,084 (82%) of these members live in Greater Dallas

71 of these members live in Greater Fort Worth

120 of these live elsewhere in Texas.

46 live elsewhere in the USA.

1 lives in Switzerland.

hope to begin that process later this year."

Any retiree or former Tier wishing to join the TI Alumni Association can do so by clicking the "Join Now!" link on the TIAA web site at www.tialumni.org or by calling 214-946-TIAA.



Officers for the TI Alumni Association were selected in May at the first annual membership meeting. Elected into office were (from left) Max Post, president; Ronnie Brandenburg, secretary; Anita Stinchcombe, treasurer; and Carl Skooglund, executive vice president.

ALUMNI NEWS

CALENDAR

September

14
 ● **Big Event at Mesquite Rodeo.** The annual Retiree Big Event gets a wild west theme this year as participants kick up their heels for a full day of fun.

16
 ● **Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery Program.** Slide presentation on the history and background of the program's acquisition and development. Mountain Creek Library, 6102 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. Call 214-670-6704.

18
 ● **Internet Basics for Seniors.** 11 a.m. Free, but limited to the first six adults to arrive. No computer experience needed. Pleasant Grove Library, 1125 S. Buckner Blvd., Dallas. 214-670-0965.

20
 ● **Phantom of the Opera.** Through Oct. 21. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece. Music Hall at Fair Park, Dallas. Call 214-631-ARTS.

23
 ● **Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's Walk to Cure Diabetes.** For more information, contact Shalissa Colwell at 972-995-8462.

26
 ● **Technology Tuesday. Intermediate Internet:** Searching the Web, 11 a.m.; Introduction to the Internet, 2 p.m.; Basics of the new web-based program, 7 p.m. Registration required for each class. Audelia Road Library, 10045 Audelia Road, Dallas. 214-670-1350.

30
 ● **TI Night at the Dallas Zoo.** For more information, contact Barbara Kruse at 214-480-6720.

October

1
 ● **LifeWalk. Fundraiser to help the prevention of AIDS and assist those who are living with it.** Lee Park, Dallas. For more information, contact Shalissa Colwell at 972-995-8462.

4
 ● **Medicare/insurance seminar** Free seminar covering Medicare benefits and long-term insurance. Plano Center, 1-3 p.m. Call 214-946-TIAA.

6-8
 ● **Dracula.** Performed by Fort Worth-Dallas Ballet. A light-footed approach to a classic horror tale. Tickets \$14-\$18. Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth. Call 972-660-8300.

28
 ● **Songs of America.** Dallas School of Music. Tickets \$8-\$10. Call 972-380-8050.

November

6
 ● **TI Alumni Charity Golf Tournament.** Proceeds benefit the United Way. \$120 per person. To play in the tournament, call Herby Locke at 972-306-4445. To volunteer to help with the event, call Bettie Smith at 972-255-5794.

30
 ● **Estate Planning Seminar.** Free seminar presented by the Ongoing Education Committee. Plano Center, 1-3 p.m. Call 214-946-TIAA.

Join the club at golf tournament

● TIAA launches first major charity event.

TI retirees can get in the swing of things with the first-ever TI Alumni Charity Golf Tournament, set for Nov. 6 at Lake Ray Hubbard. Herby Locke, a retired Tler and a member of the TI Alumni Association, is chairing the event.

"This is a great event because, first off, it's a charitable tournament," Herby says. "Golfers have so much in common anyway, and it's a good way for old friends to get back together and, regardless of their skills, be able to play and compete."

Herby signed on as a volunteer at the charter meeting of the TI Alumni Association and, because of his previous experience organizing golf tournaments both in Asia and the U.S., quickly became chairman.

"The golf format will be scramble, probably four-person teams, and the teams will be paired based on golf handicaps or recent average scores. This is on the honor system," he explains. "We will use what is called a shotgun start, which means everyone starts at the same time

from a different position on the course."

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the United Way on behalf of the TIAA. The fee for the tournament will be \$120 per person.

"The key isn't going to be the money that the players donate, but from the sponsorships that we get," he says. "We want to get businesses to sponsor holes, and that's going to be where we really need volunteers to help out."

Volunteers are needed to help with the registration and other aspects of the tournament on the day of the event, but he says much of the work comes beforehand, and he's hoping to get a good base of alumni who can make phone calls to prospective sponsors.

"That's really where we need people to help make this a success," he says. "It's just a matter of getting enough sweet-talking people who are willing to spend a little time on the phone for a good cause."

The tournament will be at The Shores, a beautiful golf course overlooking Lake Ray Hubbard (extra balls and hip boots recommended). In addition to TI

- **WHAT: TI Alumni Charity Golf Tournament**
- **WHEN: Monday, Nov. 6, beginning with 11:30 a.m. lunch**
- **WHERE: The Shores golf course, Lake Ray Hubbard**
- **WHO: TI Alumni Association members, retirees, and TI managers**

Alumni Association members and retirees, a number of TI managers have been invited to join the tournament. The first 100 people to sign up will be able to participate.

To make reservations for the tournament, e-mail Herby at hlocke@thomasgroup.com, or call him at 972-306-4445. Interested volunteers can sign up by contacting Bettie Smith at bettিকা.smith@worldnet.att.net or by phone at 972-255-5794. Prizes will be awarded for top teams and a range of notable and forgettable individual shots.

Where to call

Do you have a question about health benefits? Want to know more about the TI Alumni Association? Here's a reference list of important numbers for TI retirees.

TI Health Benefit Plans

To make changes to coverage, change your address, or for questions regarding eligibility and premium payments, call ADP (Automatic Data Processing) at 800-631-6965.

For questions concerning covered and non-covered medical care expenses and any claims questions, use the Health Answer Line at 817-467-6846 or 800-433-5008.

If you have questions about pharmacies in the network, and/or pharmacy claims questions, call PCS Member Services at 800-557-5749. Or, visit the web site at <http://w3.ext.ti.com/hr>, then click on "Pharmacy" for a list of participating pharmacies.

To find out about health care providers (physicians, hospitals, or medical care services) in the network, call First Health (TI Health Plan Provider Directory) at 800-942-9221 or visit them online at <http://w3.ext.ti.com/hr>. Click on "Doctor" to find a list of participating network providers.

For referral to short-term counseling or for certification when using mental health benefits, contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 800-888-2273.

For general information on TI Health Plans, call the TI Human Resources Service Center at 972-917-4772 or 800-873-8670.

Raytheon Health Benefit Plans

(TI-Raytheon Systems retirees should have their Social Security number and personal identification number on hand when they call these numbers for information)

Raytheon Benefits Center— 800-358-1231

Prudential Health Card — 800-578-2826

Prudential Non-Network Services — 800-272-7087

Prudential Mail Order Prescriptions — 800-732-2265

24-Hour Employee Assistance Program (EAP) — 877-354-6892

Mental Health/Substance Abuse — 800-830-5156

MetLife Dental — 888-262-4877

TI financial benefits

For information on holdings in CODA and profit sharing accounts, call the TI Participant Service Center at 1-800-949-401K.

TI Alumni Association

For questions about TIAA, call Max Post at 214-823-8973. The main number for the TIAA is 214-946-8422, or you can visit our website at <http://www.tialumni.org>.

TI Alumni Connected

For questions about the quarterly newsletter or to contribute to the TI Alumni Association newsletter, call 214-946-8422.

Texins Retiree Club (Dallas area)

For information on activities, dues and meeting schedule, call Roy Long at 972-234-3437.

TI-ALUMNI CONNECTED

The TI-Alumni edition of *Connected* is sponsored by the Communications Team of the TI Alumni Association, and is published in cooperation with TI's Worldwide Employee Communications group. The Alumni edition's goal is to help foster and maintain a sense of community among the retirees of Texas Instruments.

TI-ALUMNI EDITION EDITORIAL COUNCIL

Communications Team

- Dot Adler daa@flash.net
- Ronnie Brandenburg RoneidaB@aol.com
- Paula Calvert Texans@flash.net
- Mary Ann Eschrich
- Linda Lambert lambert500@aol.com
- Anita Stinchcombe ads@ti.com
- John W. Wilson JWIL79@cs.com

Contributing Editor

- Paula Felps prosehak@flash.net

Retirees interested in contributing to the publication should contact any member of the Communications Team, or call Max Post at 214-823-8973.

The TI Alumni Association is funded by Texas Instruments Human Resources, under the direction of the TI Public Affairs organization.

ALUMNI NEWS

Texas Instruments still striking up the band

● Tiers past and present prove it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing.

By Paula Felps

For many jazz bands, the pinnacle of success is an invitation to perform at the esteemed Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. In the case of the Texas Instruments Jazz Band, it's just one more step in a success story that no one could have predicted.

The 14-year-old jazz ensemble has grown from a side project into a legitimate band, with no better proof than its slot at Montreux this year. Composed primarily of active Tiers, the band also includes TI retirees Bob Pennick and Gerry Burnham, and performs about a dozen concerts a year.

"It's a very unique hybrid of people," acknowledges Paul Westbrook, president of the group. "Everyone has an engineering or science degree, and we have a couple of Ph.D.s. Everyone went into engineering because we had good science and math skills, but our passion is the music. We just all realized what a tough business the music industry is."

That hasn't kept them from excelling. Bob, who retired from Raytheon in 1996, has been with the Texas Instruments Jazz Band for 12 years and holds a music education degree from Southwestern University. However, a stint as a music teacher cured him of the desire to do anything more than play, and he returned to North Texas State University (now University of North Texas) to earn a math degree. The trumpet player also performs with the Richland Community College Jazz Band and with The Rounders, a popular jazz ensemble that plays in Deep Ellum and Lower Greenville.

"I would say the caliber of the TI band is semi-pro. It's a lot better than it was when I joined," he says. "Sometimes we get compared to an excellent college band. That's about where we fall [in our skill level]."

He says the merging of music and math isn't something that surprises him at all. In fact, most engineers hide some sort of musi-



The Texas Instruments Jazz Band has been performing steadily since its formation in 1986, and now boasts a stellar roster of guest artists. This year, the band was invited to perform at the renowned Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. The 18-piece ensemble includes two TI retirees, tenor sax man Gerry Burnham and trumpet player Bob Pennick.

cal passion.

"I've found that if you scratch the surface of an engineer, you just might come up with a musician," Bob says. "Some of them like to play MIDI files on the computer, or they might play the guitar. I don't know why, but there is definitely a connection between the music and engineers."

That connection isn't always a comfortable one; musicians' schedules clash with the corporate time clock, and because of that, the TI jazz band limits the number of gigs it plays every year.

"For people who are family-oriented, it's extremely difficult," Bob explains. "That's why we try to keep a handle on how much we play. You have to have time to devote to practice, and to work, and to your family — it gets to be a lot to keep up with."

But those who do commit to keeping up with it find a loyal set of musicians who will make the necessary sacrifices to be there for practice sessions and live shows. Under the direction of bass player Kris Berg, who has a music degree from UNT's famed jazz studies program, the group meets for practice every Tuesday night in Plano. The 18-piece band has played at a number of TI events, including the Kilby Awards.

"We do community and private events," says Paul, who has been with the band since its formation in the summer of 1986. "It's become a self-sustaining band. We put all the money we make back into the band, and that is enough to keep it going. It's cer-

TI Jazz Band

For performance times and more information, visit the band's web site at www.enerjazz.com.

tainly cheaper than [running] a professional big band. We do a lot of community and private events."

The band was appealing to Gerry Burnham, who has played music most of his life and has kept it as a sideline throughout his career. Although he is now retired from TI, the tenor sax player presently teaches at the University of Texas-Dallas while maintaining his musical passion.

"It is something I really enjoy doing," says Gerry, who joined the TI ensemble about a decade ago. "If I had it all to do over again, it would be the same toss-up. Music is a passion of mine."

He points out that the band's quality has improved with time, and attributes the group's success to the members' dedication.

"It's a loyal set of folks who show up when they're supposed to be there," he says. "As a set of individuals, you really can't come up with a better group of people. What is unique about this band is that, through the years, it has maintained a strong cadre of musicians and they've just continued to improve together. The way I played 10 years ago, when I joined the band, wouldn't be good enough to get me in today."

Paul admits the band is contin-

uously improving, and says that has provided them with opportunities they could not have imagined when the group began.

"We're at the point now where we can negotiate for guest artists to come in and play with us," he says. "We've played with Leon Breeden, Kevin Mahogany, Galen Jeter... but our biggest thrill was having Clark Terry play with us. He's such a legend, and he could barely even walk, but when he put his horn to his lips, you couldn't believe your ears."

The Texas Instruments Jazz Band also released its first CD, "Jazz Bytes, Version 1.0," which is sold on the group's web site (www.enerjazz.com) and also is available through MP3 downloads. The band is open to all Tiers, past and present, as well as their spouses. Those who want to join won't have to go through formal auditions, though.

"What we do is just invite them to come out to a rehearsal. The guys next to them can tell if they're just a little rusty, and need time to catch up, or if they're not at this level yet," Paul says. "Even if we don't have a spot, we'll have them keep coming to rehearsals; sometimes we send some of our players to the Collin County Community College band, and sometimes we need subs. We want to give everyone a chance to play."

The band's next public appearance is Sept. 23 at the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk at White Rock Lake.

IN BRIEF . . .

Cecil Green celebrates the century mark

Cecil Green, TI's last surviving co-founder, celebrated his 100th birthday Aug. 6 at a party with about 100 good friends.

"A grand time was had by all," said Ed Vetter, who went to La Jolla, Calif., for Cecil's birthday celebration. Ed is a retired TI executive vice president and TI Alumni Association member.

TI was represented by Bill Aylesworth, chief financial officer, and Win Skiles, senior vice president; Margaret McDermott, widow of co-founder Eugene McDermott; and Bryan Smith, retired general director.

Many well-wishers were from academic and medical institutions that received major philanthropic contributions from Cecil and his late wife, Ida.

Greetings came Queen Elizabeth II, who had made Cecil an Honorary Knight of the British Empire.

Ed Vetter brought a proclamation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Cecil also got a proclamation from the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, which was holding its annual meeting in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Shop online with TIAA

Take advantage of your TI Alumni website link (via the TI Alumni Bookstore page) to Amazon.com to shop online for much more than books. And tell your friends.

When you shop online at Amazon via the Alumni website or refer new customers, you help your TI Alumni Association earn an associate's fee to help with expenses.

SEMINARS

From Page a1

cialist in long-term care insurance for Edward Jones, will explain what long-term disability insurance can mean for individuals and their families.

"There are a lot of people interested in this, but we had a meeting of about 40 people and out of those, only one retiree had long-term care insurance," Jerry explains. "This is something that is so important to retirees. They need this, so what we're doing is giving them an educational look at it."

On Nov. 30, the committee will present a free seminar on estate planning, including aspects of tax considerations and living trusts.

For information about either program or to recommend additional topics of interest, please contact Jerry Pierce at jerrypierce@email.com or call him at 972-769-8616.

HEALTH INSURANCE

From Page a1

cies nationwide.

Social Security

The Social Security Administration's Tom Clark discussed the changing face of the way funds are distributed.

Although Social Security has been a staple of American life for more than six decades, the law has been changed through the years to meet the ever-changing needs of the American public. More change will be seen in the

future as the government works to meet new challenges. Today, Social Security provides a minimum "foundation of protection" for retired workers, their families, and those who face a loss of income due to the disability or death of a family wage earner.

Based on one's earnings, Social Security can't be collected until one is at least 62 years old, and depending on the "full retirement" date of the individual, the check will be reduced by the number of months before that date that the person elects to

apply for Social Security.

One fact Tom pointed out is that when someone retires at age 65, or their full retirement age, it will take almost 12 years to recoup the amount of money they would have been paid if they had retired and started collecting Social Security at age 62.

He also pointed out that spouses who didn't work long enough to collect Social Security on their own can collect half of their spouse's reduced benefit while their spouse is alive and receiving benefits.

ALUMNI NEWS

Riding high on the TI spirit of helping others

● TIAA member discovers first-hand the joy of volunteerism.

By Dave Noble

Fellow TI Alumni, you really missed an opportunity!

On June 3, I joined about 60 TI employee volunteers participating in one of the two Tech Smart Big Heart Corporate Caring Day projects. Corporate Caring Day is a corporate volunteer program managed by the Volunteer Center of Dallas. This year, nine Dallas companies participated, sending out more than 400 volunteers.

We met at the Equestrian Center near Wylie for an 8 a.m. orientation session. I have to admit I don't remember much about what was said, but not because of the early hour. I was focused more on the young child being propped up on a horse walking around the indoor arena. I couldn't see the child's face very well, but I am sure I saw the child smiling. Equest is a nationally recognized non-profit organization for equine-assisted therapy. (Information on Equest can be found on the web at www.equest.org.)

After the orientation, we split up for our work assignments. We had been assigned to a TI volunteer team leader with certain task responsibilities and performed the work under the supervision of a person from Equest. Our work was frequently hard and dirty, and certainly not glamorous. But we were there to help get the place ready for a charity event the next day, not to sit around and be entertained.

As might be expected with horses, there were stalls to muck out. Several people volunteered for this, which was not an assigned task. Jumps had to be brought into the outdoor arena and assembled for a charity horse show. Work had to be done on the arena ground and other landscape. Gates and fences needed



Dave Noble (second row, fourth from left) was among one of about 60 Tiers who participated in Corporate Caring Day, a volunteer program managed by the Volunteer Center of Dallas. The group spent the day at the Equest Equestrian Center for a full day of rewarding volunteerism.

TI retirees get involved with education

One of Texas Instruments' highest priorities is its community programs in education. TI and the TI Foundation are involved in education at all levels from pre-kindergarten to university programs.

The TI Alumni Association feels there is great opportunity for TI retirees to get involved in the education system. Placing educated, experienced retirees as tutors, mentors, classroom assistants, substitute and full-time teachers benefits the community, the company and the retirees.

There are opportunities in many areas for volunteers and teachers in our local education systems ranging from elementary reading programs to high school math, science and technology teachers and possibly even online tutoring!

Local school districts offer alternative certification programs if you do not have a teaching certificate. To qualify for substitute teaching, you only need to have 60 hours of college credit.

If you are interested in getting involved, even if it's only one hour a month, please contact Jerry Pierce at 972-769-8616 or jerrypierce@email.com.

cleaning and painting. Tables, chairs, umbrellas and tents had to be set up, as well as general pick-up being needed on the grounds. With 60 eager and motivated Tiers, the chores went fast and were even enjoyable. It was great working alongside people from many areas of TI.

About noon, Colter's BBQ

catered a barbecue lunch that really hit the spot after a hard morning's work. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt good having helped TI with this Corporate Caring Day project. But even more, I felt a satisfaction of giving something back to some less fortunate individuals by my efforts for Equest. And I now

have a Tech Smart Big Heart T-shirt to remind me of this experience. If this project comes up again, I certainly want to be a part of it, and I hope many of you will join me next time.

A second team of approximately 20 Tiers and their families volunteered at John W. Carpenter Elementary School in southwest Dallas, giving the hallways a fresh coat of paint. Being a recent retiree, I am new to the volunteering opportunities available to us. The June Alumni News article "All hands on deck: Tiers can take on volunteer opportunities" listed the Equest opportunity and Year 2000 Olympic Trials being held in the Dallas area.

During the Olympic Trials, which are over now, I was able to work as a volunteer on the Track Cycling Trials at the Frisco Superdome in April and the Triathlon Trials at Las Colinas in May. They never got back to me on the Wrestling Trials, but I hope to work on the Dallas 2012 Olympic bid. The Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid home page is at www.2012dallas.org.

The phone number for volunteers is 214-875-3024, or watch the TI Alumni web site.

Volunteering and retirement can go hand in hand

I worked 20 years for IBM in various positions and locations. Then I took early retirement and went to EDS, where I spent five years in system design, development and software testing.

In 1988, I joined TI at Spring Creek in Plano in quality assurance in a software development group. During this time, I was diagnosed with cancer. After several years and many operations and chemotherapy sessions, I have been cancer-free for over two years. TI, the TI Benefit Plan and many of my co-workers were instrumental in my recovery.

When the software group was sold to Sterling Software in 1997, I retired from TI and went to work for Sterling. Then, in September 1999, my job was eliminated by a reorganization, and I joyfully went into actual retirement. In March 2000, I accepted a part-time, short-term contract with Sterling and their new owner, Computer Associates. This is still ongoing.

Being retired hasn't been exactly what I thought it would be. In addition to the part-time work, I have found myself busy with a lot of new opportunities I didn't have time for before. They include mentoring in the HOSTS program, working with the Dallas 2012 Olympic bid and the local trials for the 2000 Olympics, church outings and activities, a vacation in Cabo San Lucas, and TI Alumni Association activities.

These are all things I had hoped to do, but I still haven't found, or made, time to work on some PC applications at home which I thought I would have plenty of time for. If these become more important to me, God willing, I'll start them "tomorrow" along with any new volunteer opportunities.

— Dave Noble

Tiers set to raise the roof — and everything else

● TIAA members among those helping build Habitat for Humanity house.

Whether your expertise is swinging a hammer or wielding a caulking gun, you can put it to good use this fall as part of the Habitat for Humanity project.

Hank Hayes, former vice president for TI, is spearheading a project to build a home in East Plano over a 12-week period. Volunteers from the TI Alumni Association are joining members of Hank's church and his family and friends to help make the project a reality.

Habitat For Humanity is a national organization that provides quality, affordable housing for low-income families. Each home is sold to a family that has

passed through a stringent approval process. They purchase the home for \$50,000 and don't have to pay interest on the note, which allows them to enjoy the benefits of home ownership for about the same cost of renting an apartment. Approved home buyers also must contribute 400 hours of work to a Habitat For Humanity project.

Linda Lambert is serving as volunteer coordinator for the project. She says that the kick-off for the project is Sept. 9, and is designed to coincide with the national Building on Faith Habitat Humanity project created by former president Jimmy Carter.

"During that one week, we will be working during the week, but the rest of the time it is a weekend project," Linda says. "We'll work the 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th and 16th, and then every

Saturday after that until the house is finished."

The completion date is set for the first week of December. Linda says volunteers will work three-hour shifts, with the first shift running from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the second going from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The hour-long lunch break is a chance for the outgoing and incoming shifts to socialize and share lunch.

"All people have to do to be a part of this is just sign up," she says. "We'll keep them informed as to what the schedule is and what will be done on the house each week. We'll contact them by phone or by e-mail to make sure we have a large enough group of volunteers each weekend."

Habitat For Humanity has a staff of permanent volunteers who lead newcomers and assign them to tasks. That means that even

people who've never even held a hammer can still participate in the process. More complicated procedures, such as pouring the foundation, installing wiring and plumbing, and putting up sheetrock are all completed by professionals.

The house is a basic three-bedroom structure that Hank says serves a purpose far beyond merely providing housing for a family.

"When you look at areas with these homes, you see that it upgrades the community around it. When a new home comes in, neighbors will spruce up their existing homes," Hank says. "This is a way to help an entire community and have a great time."

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Habitat for Humanity project can contact Linda Lambert at 972-447-9447 or by email at lambert500@aol.com.

Get flu shots at TI in October

Retirees can get flu shots at TI sites in October. As the vaccine will have limited availability this year, please take advantage of the opportunity to receive it at TI.

No payment is required for Medicare Part B participants, who must bring their Medicare cards. For retirees not covered by Medicare, the cost is \$8, payable in cash.

Call the TI Alumni Association, 214-946-TIAA (214-946-8422), for dates and locations or refer to the TIAA web site Health Excellence page, www.tialumni.org/tiaa/health.html.