

## TIAA Introduces New Website

Welcome to the new, improved TIAA Website. This new website has the same tialumni.org address as the previous one, but just about everything else has been changed

### New Architecture

It has a clean and open look and includes eight drop-down menus that make it easy to find subjects of interest. The home page includes a featured story and topical TIAA news that will be updated much more frequently than in the past. Articles of lasting interest are archived for easy reference. The lower left hand corner of the home page features **News Around TI**, an RSS feed that comes directly from TI and is continually updated with news items about TI.

Upcoming events are also highlighted on the home page and a single click on the **Calendar** link takes you to our integrated calendar that shows not only TIAA events but also those supplied to us by other groups of interest to for-



mer Tiers. You can then click on an event to see more detail and even make another click which will take you to a Google map showing the location. You can register for the event and even pay for it online by credit card through a secure server.

If you are only interested in Travel events, for instance, you can

access the Travel Calendar listing only these events. Similar calendars list only Community Involvement events and Educational seminars.

Photos and slideshows from the many TIAA activities are posted and accessed much more easily on the new site. Please take a few moments to see all the activities

that TIAA sponsors.

### Payment Option

One brand new feature we are launching with the site is the ability to register and pay for trips and events online, via credit card, on a secure server. This should reduce mailing cost for members and make the entire registration process more efficient.

In recent years more and more members have been renewing their membership online, using credits cards, so we believe adding the service for other payments will be attractive to most members. For those not comfortable with payment via the web, they can still mail us checks.

Absolutely no credit information will be stored in the new TIAA website. This means that members will have to enter their credit card information each time that they make a charge, but will not have to worry about anyone hacking into our system and accessing their financial data.

## The Why, When and What of TIAA's New Website

By Larry James and Ronnie Brandenburg

It was clear to TIAA's founders that a website would be a key tool for staying in touch with members around the world. Work began immediately after the organization's creation in July 1999, and the first website was up and running by February 2000.

Those were the days when almost everyone who accessed the Internet did so by dial-up. TIAA released a makeover of the site in June 2003 to help speed things up and to take advantage of the "larger" monitors of the day.

Since then, although content on the site has expanded year by year, the basic architecture remained the same. As TIAA moved more and more to electronic communications, it became clear that a modern website architecture was needed. Therefore, in 2012 the TIAA Executive Committee authorized funding of an entirely new and modern website.

### Work Begins

Former TIAA President Ronnie Brandenburg led the effort which touched on every part of the organization. Barbara Errickson, a recent



Website ad hoc committee members, John Byers, Ronnie Brandenburg, Jon Campbell, Larry James and Jessica Stewart met with Mark Hanna of Skvare to make the new website as user-friendly as possible.

TI retiree, was key to the project. She developed the architecture for the website and the structure for the member database using open-source tools. Other participants in the project included: John Byers, Jon Campbell; Hector Cardenas, Larry James, Mauricio Oporto, Bill Stearns, Jessica Stewart and Linda Stopani. Peter Petrik and Mark Hanna of Skvare (pronounced square) were hired as consultants and are hosting the new site. The firm focuses on nonprofit and membership-driven associations like ours.

One reason that the organization had deferred modernization of the

website for so long was that the member database, which is an integral part of the site and also dated to the early days of TIAA, had evolved into a totally unique structure with a few band-aids here and there. As it turned out, the migration to a modern relational database that provided the needed features proved to be the most difficult part of the project.

The coding, transition and testing took considerably longer than expected. This important phase would not have been possible without the wonderful "can-do" attitude of Jessica Stewart, our Administra-

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## How to Begin

If you are a current member and this is your first visit to this website, please go to [tialumni.org/register](http://tialumni.org/register) to register and set up your password. Fill in the blanks and click on the Submit button. You will receive a follow-up email in a few minutes explaining how to complete this registration process.

Please note that your User ID and password for the previous site will not work for the new one because of enhanced security. Your new User ID is your TI employee number. Contact the TIAA office at [admin@tialumni.org](mailto:admin@tialumni.org) or 214-567-8444 if you do not recall your TI employee number or if you experience problems.

Once you are able to log in, please click on **My Account** in the upper right corner. The data we have on file for you will be displayed. Please check it for accuracy as the data from our previous database was converted some time ago and may not reflect recent changes. To change your data, click on **Edit Name, Address and Password** in the middle of the page. If you make any changes, be sure to click the **Save** button at the bottom of the page.

Note that each member, including a spousal member, must have a unique email address, because this address is used to set up or change passwords.

If you are not a current member, please take a look at all we offer. You do not have to be a TI retiree to join, but you must be a former Tler.

# Events

## Community Involvement Events

**April 8, Dallas Ramp Project** – Tuesday, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm. Have you ever changed a person's life in a single day? In a few hours, you can give someone the freedom to leave their home again – the home where they want to remain but whose steps have imprisoned them. Wheelchair ramps are built for disabled or elderly people who can't afford to buy one. Depending on response, we will build either one or two ramps. This activity can be performed by men and women ages 16 and up. There is a job suitable for everyone. Those who sign up will be given additional instructions as far as safety, clothing and what to bring. We will leave Texins Activity Center at 8:30 am and travel to the home(s). Lunch afterward will be at a local restaurant before

**April 24, World Vision Storehouse** – Thursday, 8:45 am - 1:45 pm. The World Vision Storehouse provides free school supplies to teachers in schools that serve low-income families. Teachers can obtain teaching aids and books, binders, backpacks, pencils, art supplies, and posters. They may also find educational toys and games that can be used as incentives for stellar schoolwork or good behavior. Thanks to The Storehouse, teachers in participating schools don't have to dig into their own wallets or watch their students go without educational supplies. Schools in which 70 percent or more students qualify for subsidized meals qualify to use the center. In Dallas, over 50% of schools fall into that category. TIAA members will sort materials and help fill orders. We will leave Texins Activity Center at 8:45 am and have lunch nearby at our own expense before returning by about 1:45 pm.

**Mid-May, Equest and Coventry Reserve Tours** – This will be a tour of the two agencies to learn how they provide therapeutic client services and will not involve physical activity by those attending. Equest, located in Wylie, provides therapeutic sports horse riding classes and Hippotherapy to over 150 clients every week. They serve children and adults with all types of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. The Coventry Reserve, located in St. Paul, is a distinctive day program for adults with special needs that offers life-enrichment opportunities, creative activities and therapeutic programs. We will depart the Texins Activity Center at 8:30 am, eat lunch (at our own expense) between the two locations and return to Texins about 3:00 pm. See future *eNews* or *eCalendars* for

date.

*Unless otherwise indicated, transportation from the Dallas Texins Activity Center is provided by The Senior Source or TI. To register online, please go to [tialumni.org/cit](http://tialumni.org/cit), click on the desired event, then on Event Registration Page and follow the instructions. You can also register by contacting the TIAA office at [admin@tialumni.org](mailto:admin@tialumni.org) or 214-567-8444. Please register at least seven days before the event, so that we can inform you if plans change.*

## Seminar

**March 27, Social Media Seminar** – Thursday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Texins Activity Center, CR1-2. What is social media and how is it relevant to me? Do I need accounts on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter? What's the primary difference between these sites? What about Pinterest, FourSquare, Skype and Tumblr? What are sensible safe practices to follow when going online and posting information? Should I upgrade to a smart phone? A tablet? Or some other communication gadget? And how do I decide which one is best for me? How do I learn to use all the fancy features of the device? If you feel overwhelmed with all the information available for connecting online, or if you just want to learn some techniques and tips for utilizing social media, come join us at this informative seminar.

*To register online, please go to [tialumni.org/seminar](http://tialumni.org/seminar), click on the desired event, then on Event Registration Page, click on the desired event and follow the instructions. You can also register by contacting the TIAA office at [admin@tialumni.org](mailto:admin@tialumni.org) or 214-567-8444. Please register at least seven days before the event, so that we can inform you if plans change.*

## TIAA Breakfasts

**March 21, April 18 & May 16** – Friday, 9:30 am, Southern Recipe Cafe, 1381 W. Campbell Rd. (just east of Coit Rd.), Richardson. All TI retirees, TIAA members and their spouses are invited to this informal get-together at the Southern Recipe Cafe. This quiet and peaceful restaurant is located in Richardson and their back room is available for us to enjoy a cozy breakfast with old friends. You will find fresh food, great service, reasonable prices, and good conversation. Registration is not required as we can always pull up another table or two, so just show up and bring a friend if you like.

# The Why, When and What

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tor. As we launch, we know that the database is not perfect, but we are asking members to help us by identifying any errors that may exist in their profile – most of which they will be able to change online themselves.

## Increased Communication

In recent years as members have become more comfortable with electronic communication, TIAA has been shifting that direction as well. In the early days, members relied on our paper newsletter, which came in the mail once a quarter, to learn about events. The first website became another tool for informing members and then in 2008 our popular *eNews* was launched providing a way to communicate each month, via email. It was followed by *eNotes*, which can be sent at any time there is a significant need, and *eCalendar*, which is distributed mid-monthly via email, which highlights events of interest in the coming months.

Electronic communication is not only more timely, it saves the hefty cost of printing and mailing. The capabilities of the new website allow us to move further in this direction, both with additional content and new features for interacting with members.

## New Software

We created the website using Drupal software which is an open-source content-management system (CMS) powering millions of websites and applications. There are more than 20,000 community-contributed modules available to tailor Drupal's appearance and capabilities. This is both good and bad – TIAA tried hard not to require customization in our new website to keep the costs down and to prevent problems as new releases of Drupal are installed. Obviously, this means that some things are not exactly as we would prefer.

Our previous database has been

replaced by an open-source constituent relationship management system called CiviCRM. This is designed specifically to meet the needs of non-profit groups. CiviCRM has been installed by over 5,000 organizations and is designed to manage information about an organization's members, event registrants, subscribers, etc.

## New Capabilities

The new site has streamlined navigation that makes it easier to find things like TIAA governing documents and information about our various committees. Health resource links are also more accessible and we've added links to Slideshows of our events and a photo gallery that shows TIAA in Action. Another feature that is expected to be popular with members is a syndicated feed of TI in the News, which appears on our home page. Several areas of the site are available only to members, these are: the Directory; the In Memoriam list, Recent Obituaries of deceased former TIers and Vendor Offers.

The new website has been optimized for display on a typical PC screen. Your viewing experience may vary depending on your browser and PC settings. If you have significant problems, please let us know. Also please note that, similar to our old site, the new one will not display well on a smart phone or tablet screen. At the present time, we do not have the budget to create a version for mobile devices, but this is something we may consider in the future based on member feedback.

Members involved in the testing phase of the site really liked how easy it is to access information and the plentiful use of photos that help bring TIAA to life on the screen. Another convenient new feature is the ability to pay for events online with a credit card through our secure server. Please spend a few minutes on the new site and give us your feedback. Just click on Contact Us in the upper right corner of any web page.

## TI Foundation Deadline for VIP Applications

TI retirees who volunteered their time in 2013 for charitable causes have until March 31, 2014, to submit their hours to the TI Foundation's Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP). Your volunteer service hours at your chosen nonprofit that falls

within VIP guidelines will be matched by a monetary donation by TI Foundation. To review the guidelines and to apply, go to <http://getinvolved.ti.com>. If you encounter any problems, please call this toll-free hotline: 1-855-493-9862, Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 7:00 pm.



Jessica Stewart and Loretta Jennings inspected a vintage Douglas DC-3 airliner at the C R Smith Museum in Fort Worth on February 26.

# 2013 Retiree Luncheon



TI hosted the 2013 Annual Retiree Luncheon on November 14 at the Mesquite Convention Center.



Attendees enjoyed a tossed salad, barbeque beef and chicken, grilled veggies, potato salad, rolls and delicious deserts.

## Travel

**April 3, First Monday Trade Days** – Thursday, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm, Canton, TX. Yes, it's on a Thursday – that's really the first day of the market and the least crowded. We'll hop on a luxury passenger bus and head for Canton, TX, to enjoy this market. It is the oldest, largest, continually operating outdoors market in the USA and spans hundreds of acres with spaces for about 6,000 vendors. Wear comfortable clothing, use sunscreen and bring a hat! Scooter rentals are available in several areas for those who can't walk long distances. We'll leave Texins Activity Center at 10:00 am, roam around the grounds, munch at various food vendors on our own, and be back about 4:30 pm. Cost is \$22 for members and \$25 for nonmembers.

**May 9, Texas Rangers v. Boston Red Sox Game** – Friday, 5:00 pm - 11:00 pm, Arlington. Let's go cheer for our team as they start toward the grand prize in baseball – the World Series – with some new players. The seats are in the Upper Reserved section looking right down the third base line and offer a great view of this beautiful stadium. We will leave at 5:00 pm, grab something to eat and drink at our own expense at one of the many ball park vendors, enjoy the 7:05 pm game and return around 11:30 pm. Cost is \$25 for members and \$28 for nonmembers. Please register early as tickets are limited. However, due to our bus limitations, we also have six tickets available for \$15 each if you want to drive yourself.

**June 26, Ham Orchards** – Thursday, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, Terrell. Let's go stock up on the "jewels of the summer" (hand-picked, ripe peaches), fat blueberries, red tomatoes, blackberries, etc. at a well-known farm market store. We will leave at 11 am; shop in the store for fresh, canned or frozen veggies, fruits, casseroles, jams, jellies and desserts; enjoy a delicious BBQ sandwich and a Cider Slush at their outdoor pavilion restaurant (at your own expense) and lick a homemade peach or strawberry ice cream cone before we head back to Texins about 2:00 pm. Be sure to bring your shopping bag; coolers will be available on the bus in case you buy any frozen food. Cost is \$13.00 for members and \$15.00 for nonmembers.

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**July 11, Lone Star Park Racing** – Friday, 5:00 pm - 10:30 pm, Grand Prairie. "And they're off!" echoes around the Lone Star Park. Join the fun as we watch 10 thoroughbred horse races. There is no minimum age for live racing (although children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent) and there is no dress code, so wear comfortable clothes. We will load the bus at 5:00 pm and the first race is at 6:35 pm which gives us time to travel, find our reserved counterseats in the second level of the glass-enclosed, air-conditioned grandstand, get something to eat (at our own expense), check out the horses in the paddock area and place our bets. We will return around 10:30 pm. Cost is \$25 for members and \$28 for nonmembers.

*All trips depart from and return to the Dallas Texins Activity Center unless otherwise noted. Each TIAA member may bring one guest at the member price. Others may join us at the nonmember price. To register online, please go to [tialumni.org/trip](http://tialumni.org/trip), click on the desired event, then on Event Registration Page and follow the instructions. You can pay by credit card through a secure link or mail your check to TIAA, PO Box 740181, Dallas, TX 75374. You can also register by contacting the TIAA office at [admin@tialumni.org](mailto:admin@tialumni.org) or 214-567-8444. Please register at least seven days before the event, so that we can inform you if plans change.*



TIAA President George Consolver opened the meeting and introduced the speakers.



Kevin March, TI Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, talked about 60 years of Texas Instruments history.



Former Tler Linda Freeland did a great impersonation of the one-and-only Patsy Cline.



Lewis McMahan announced that TI retirees had donated a record \$146,400 to the 2013 United Way Campaign.



Ronnie and Jerry Brandenburg, Denise and Greg Boydston, and Linda and Gary Stopani bundled up before marveling at the splendors of ICE! at Gaylord Texas on December 3.

# Contacts

## Health & Financial Benefit Plans

### TI HR Connect

1-888-660-1411, Option 1  
www.netbenefits.com/TI

This phone number consolidates all benefit phone numbers into a 24-hr voice-recognition system. TI Benefits Center representatives are available Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 7:30 pm, Central Time. First-time users of the web address need to register in order to log on.

### Raytheon Benefits Center

1-800-358-1231  
raytheon.benefitcenter.com

TI-Raytheon Systems retirees should have Social Security and personal identification numbers available when calling. Check with the Raytheon Benefits Center for latest benefit contact information.

## TI Alumni News

This newsletter is published quarterly by the TI Alumni Association to help inform the TI alumni community about TIAA activities.

**Editorial Staff:** Dot Adler, Editor; Marilyn Adams, Ronnie Brandenburg, Jon Campbell, Ed Millis, Max Post, Jessica Stewart, Linda Stopani and Gary Vawter, Contributors; and Jerry Brandenburg and Linda Stopani, Photographers.

**Production Staff:** Jon Campbell, Manager; Peggie Mathews, Production Artist; and Ronda McCauley, Layout.

*Alumni interested in contributing to the publication should contact Dot Adler at editor@tialumni.org or 214-567-8444.*

## TI Alumni Association

The mission of TIAA is to provide a link between TI and TI alumni that fosters communications, programs, services and activities about and of interest to TI and TI alumni.

**Elected Officers:** George Consolver, President; Larry James, Executive Vice President; Marilyn Adams, Secretary; and Debi Heaton, Treasurer.

**Appointed Officers:** Max Post, Activities Chair; Jon Campbell, Communications Chair; Greg Boydston, Community Involvement Chair; Lisa Calloway, Education Chair, Ronnie Brandenburg, Travel Chair; John Byers, CIO; Jasmine Ng, TI Liaison; and Jessica Stewart, Administrator.

*To contact any TIAA officer, email admin@tialumni.org or call 214-567-8444.*

# Groups

*The following groups usually meet as shown below. Call or email contact person to confirm schedule.*

**Antenna Lab** – 1:00 pm, second Tuesday, lunch at Denny's, 1830 N. Central Expy, Plano. Contact Ralph Bovee, ralphbovee2@aol.com or 972-422-5458.

**Apparatus Retirees** – 8:30 am, third Wednesday, breakfast at IHOP Pancake House, LBJ Frwy. at Centerville Rd., Garland. Contact Newton Beam, ncb1932@sbcglobal.net or 940-220-9930.

**Attleboro Retiree Club** – 1 pm, second Tuesday (except July & August) at Norton VFW Post 8049, Summer St., Norton, MA. Contact David Rushia, peperenum1@yahoo.com.

**Austin Alumni Lunch** – Annual reunion on first Monday in December at Rudy's BBQ on 183. Contact Marian Justiss, marian@justiss.net.

**Austin Retiree Club** – Lunch meetings are held every other month (January, March, May, July, September and November) on the third Thursday. Open to all former Tiers in Austin area. Contact Fritz Wolff at ejfwolff@gmail.com or Bill Crane at wcrane@austin.rr.com.

**Dallas-Area GSIs** – 11:30 am, third Tuesday, lunch at Tony's Café, NW corner of Alma & Spring Creek Pkwy., Plano. Contact Dick Matthews, rich12mat@yahoo.com or 214-432-0138.

**Dallas TI Reunion Club** – 10 a.m., second Saturday, meeting and lunch at Denny's Restaurant on Motor St., Dallas. Call Gladys Jones, 214-376-9725, or Willie Demus, 214-331-2111.

**Equipment Group Retirees** – 11 am, lunch on 15th of each month (or the nearest weekday) at Red Lobster, LBJ Frwy. & Greenville Ave., Dallas. Contact Neil Sunderland, neilsund@gmail.com or 972-272-2869.

**Ex-GSIs** – 11:30 am, second Wednesday, lunch at Tino's Too, 2201 K Ave., Plano. Contact Martha Hamilton, mhamilton@geomarine.com or 972-424-0297.

**Ex-TI Network** – 5:30 pm, last Friday, meeting at BJ's Brewhouse, 1101 N. Central Expy., Plano. Contact Joan Nichols, j.nichols4@yahoo.com or 214-543-2546 or Charlie Gonsalves, Charlie\_gonsalves@yahoo.com or 469-525-6171

**First Monday Bunch** – 1-3 pm, first Monday, meeting at Richardson Senior Center, 820 W. Arapaho Rd., Richardson. Contact Ralph Dean, deanandcomp@sbcglobal.net or 972-235-2589.

**Houston. Alumni Association** – 11 am lunch on third Wednesday (except for the second Wednesday in December) at America Buffet, 12815 Southwest Frwy., Stafford, TX. See details on www.tihaa.org. Gary Lockett, garylockett@gmail.com or 281-658-5047.

**LinkedIn** – Sponsored by TIAA for use as an open forum by former Tiers who want to stay connected with the TI family. List owner Tom Boedecker. <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=139468>.

**North Texas Retiree Luncheon** – 11:30 am, second Friday of the second month of each quarter at El Chico, 1222 North Central Expy., McKinney. Contact Cliff Gibbs, tri-o@waymark.net or 972-742-1113.

**Old Bunch Lunch Group** – 11 am, second Thursday, Spring Creek Barbeque, 207 North Central Expy., Richardson. Mostly SC QA 1990s retirees. Contact Bob Wacker, bobwacker@att.net

**TIAA Breakfast Club** – 9:30 am, third Friday, breakfast at the Southern Recipe Café at 1381 W. Campbell Rd. in Richardson. Contact Jon Campbell, jonscampbell@gmail.com or 972-235-5158.

**TIAA Retiree Bunch** – 11 am, third Tuesday of each month (except July & August), Spring Creek Barbeque, 270 North Central Expy., Richardson. Contact Tom Gregory, tomgregory3@gmail.com or 972-412-9332, or Lucy Salas, 469-878-1514.

**TI Bible Study Group** – 7-8 am, every other Thursday, Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church, TI Blvd. & Forest Ln., Dallas. SC retirees meeting for over 20 years. David Robertson, teacher. Contact Ron McCormick, ronmccormk@aol.com.

**TI Design Automation (TIDA)** – Personnel, retired or otherwise, from DAD and all other electrical, mechanical and software DA departments worldwide – 11:15 am luncheon on first Wednesday of each quarter at Spring Creek Barbeque, 270 North Central Expy., Richardson. Contact Bob Penick, bob@penick.net.