

ALUMNI NEWS

Ongoing Education Committee presents Financial Planning seminar

● Seminar addresses how retirees can outpace expenses while allowing portfolios to grow.

The Ongoing Education Committee's first quarterly seminar was held on March 28 at the Texans Center in Richardson. The seminar, focusing on Financial Planning, featured Randy Dunn as guest speaker and attracted about 100 participants.

Randy, a partner at Edward Jones in St. Louis, Mo., presented the need for diversity and changes in strategy in investment portfolios during retirement.

Having worked for one of the leaders in technology, most TI alumni have enjoyed great financial returns using a very aggressive investing approach. Yet, as retirees, Randy pointed out that it is important to ensure that income will outpace expenses while portfolios continue to grow.

For example, during high income years, a good breakdown for the types of equities would look something like this:

- **Aggressive growth stocks** — 0-4 percent
- **Growth stocks** — 23-33 percent
- **Growth & income stocks** — 31-41 percent
- **Income stocks** — 24-34 percent

During retirement years, however, a more conservative approach to investing is required. That breakdown could look like this:

- **Aggressive growth stocks** — 0-4 percent
- **Growth stocks** — 10-20 percent
- **Growth & income stocks** — 39-49 percent
- **Income stocks** — 29-39 percent
- **Cash** — 3-7 percent

Randy pointed out that there are many mutual funds available



Jerry Pierce, chairman of the Ongoing Education Committee, with Randy Dunn, guest speaker for the committee's first quarterly seminar. Randy is a partner at Edward Jones and addressed the issue of Financial Planning for retirees.

offering percentages in the various areas above without investors having to worry about buying specific stocks. But for those who prefer actual stocks, an example of the types of equities he recommends for a core holding account is what he called "the five pack." This would consist of:

- A health care stock (such as Merck or Pfizer);
- A consumer stock (such as Procter & Gamble, Colgate, or Gillette);
- A financial stock (such as Bank of America);
- A shopping stock (such as WalMart, Home Depot); and
- A technology stock (such as TI, MCI World Communications).

The best strategy, of course, is to buy good companies at good prices! And, don't wait to do it. The longer one waits, the less return they will earn on their money.

Depending on how long these

investments will be held, the difference could be rather significant.

Randy also addressed the issue of whether or not it is necessary to hire an investment counselor. Of course, it's possible for an individual to make decisions on their own, but Randy emphasized that it leaves the consumer without advice or assistance on some rather complicated issues.

He recommends going into a "partnership" with a professional, such as a broker or Certified Financial Planner. That professional should meet certain criteria, such as:

- Being someone who will have a good relationship with the consumer/investor;
- Understands the goals of the consumer and understands their expenses and what they are able to invest, and commits to helping reach those goals;
- Is someone who, in the

Take a look at upcoming programs

The Ongoing Education Committee has several programs planned to address issues relevant to TI retirees. Here's what's coming up:

Insurance

Joining us for this seminar is Pam Melzer, TI Human Resources Service Center Manager, who will give an overview of the TI Health Plan and where to find benefit information, and Stefanie Bailin, Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration, who will brief us on changes to the Social Security Laws.

This seminar will be from 2 to 4 p.m. June 29 in the fifth floor auditorium at the Texans Center, 777 Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas. Admission by reservation only. Call 214-946-TIAA to reserve your seat. Space is limited!

Estate planning

Topics on tap will include:

Important estate planning and estate tax features to be included in a will.

- Living trusts.
- Family limited partnerships
- Charitable giving
- Many other estate planning features

Mark your calendar for October 3 for this exciting informational event. More details will be announced in the next issue of *TI Alumni Connected*.

Health information

This seminar, set for Nov. 30, will look at what should be done on a daily basis (i.e., exercise, proper nutrition, etc.) to maintain good health.

Anyone with comments about the above topics or recommendations for additional topics are asked to contact Jerry Pierce at: jerrypierce@email.com or 972-769-8616

The Ongoing Education Committee is dedicated to find and communicate lifelong education opportunities and foster interest in opportunities for members to provide education to others.

Committee members are: Jerry Pierce, Chairman, Scott Brekenfeld, Mary Ann Eschrich, Peter Laux, Bernie List, Roy Long, Gordon MacDonald, Loyd Morris, Jim Peterman and Terry Wooldridge.

event of a death, will be there for the surviving spouse — particularly, if he or she does not handle any of the financial areas of the couple's life together; and,

- Is someone who will work with the consumer on all fronts. In addition to getting a bounty

of knowledge, all of the participants in the Financial Planning seminar received a Personal Financial Organizer with some great handouts. Bettie Smith was winner of the "money tree" at the seminar. Bettie now truly has money "growing on trees!"

TI Alumni Association holds first membership meeting

● **ANNUAL MEETING:** More than 150 retirees turn out for first official gathering.

The TI Alumni Association held its first Annual Membership Meeting May 18 at the Texans Center, with 160 TI retirees in attendance. The meeting saw the newly formed association electing officers and approving its by-laws and constitution, and included an outstanding presentation on TI's business by TI Senior Vice President Steve Leven.

Members approved the appointments made by the Nominating Committee, and installed the following officers:

President — Max Post; Executive Vice President — Carl Skooglund; Secretary — Ronnie Brandenburg; Treasurer — Anita Stinchcombe.

The new officers will officially assume their responsibilities on

July 1, and will serve one-year terms.

Those attending the meeting were given a demonstration of the TI Alumni website, which offers updated information of interest to all TI retirees.

Perhaps the most exciting news of the day came with the latest update on new memberships. As of May 18, the TIAA membership head count stood at 1,041.

"We had hoped that we could, possibly, have 300 members by the end of this year," explains Max Post, who chaired the association's Steering Committee. "We looked at what other clubs were doing in terms of membership, and what we were mailing out. If you get a 2 percent response on a mail-out, it's pretty good."

However, the overwhelming response shows more than a 10 percent return.

"We were astounded," Max admits. "We've been very pleased



Max Post, Chairman of the TIAA Steering Committee and newly elected president of the group, visits with other retirees before the first Annual Membership Meeting May 18 at the Texans Center.

with the kind of response we've gotten and the interest shown in what we are creating. It shows that the retirees of TI do want to get together more frequently, they do want to be involved in more activities and education."

The Internet has gone a long way toward facilitating the associ-

ation's startup; more than 300 of the memberships have been online registrations. When a press release went out in May, and appeared on Internet business sites, including Yahoo.com, Max says there was a noticeable jump in membership applications.

"One of the things we are see-

ing through all of this is the power of the Internet to pull retirees together," he says. "The comments we have received from the web site have been very positive, and that is a good resource to bring people together."

To visit the TIAA website, go to www.tialumni.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

CALENDAR

Ongoing

● **Cool Thursdays at Arboretum.** On Thursdays in June, July and August there are special performances by musical groups to enjoyed by Arboretum guests. TI retirees with badge admitted free; regular charge for guests. For details, contact the Arboretum at 214-327-8263.

June

3

● **TI Community Volunteer Day.** As part of the Tech Smart Big Heart activities, TI is partnering with the Volunteer Center of Dallas to help Equest, Equestrian Center and Carpenter Elementary School. Retirees are invited to work along with Tlors in activities that will include painting, minor repairs and grounds work. For more information, contact Max Post at 214-823-8973 or mpost@flash.net, or visit www.tialumni.org.

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● **Basic Computer Class for Seniors.** Registration required, but class is free. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 2922 MLK Blvd. 11 a.m. Call 214-670-0344 for more information.

22-24

● **Olympic Triathlon Trials.** Reunion Arena, Dallas. In an effort to bring the 2012 Summer Olympic Games to North Texas, several Olympic Trials are being held in the area. Volunteers are needed. Contact Kate Kettles at 214-875-3024.

July

22-23

● **Science Place Weekend/African American Museum.** Free entry for retirees and families into the Science Place Exhibit Hall. Individuals will need to purchase IMAX tickets if they plan to see a movie. For more information, go to www.scienceplace.org

August

14-18

● **On My Own Time Art Show.** TI Retirees and spouses are invited to exhibit their artwork. Registration deadline is July 14. Contact Barbara Kruse for more information at 214-480-6720.

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. See story on next page, mark your calendars, and watch this space for more information!

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

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● **TI Night at the Dallas Zoo.** TI will have the Zoo to itself on Saturday Sept. 30. Retirees and families welcome. Mark your calendars, and watch for more details!

Scouting the competition

● TI opens Employee Referral Program to retirees.

By Paula Felps

Retirees interested in earning a little extra money can put their expertise to work in a whole new way – as talent scouts!

The Employee Referral Program, which has been in place since 1996, now has been opened to the alumni community, giving former employees the chance to continue sharing in the company's future growth. The Retiree Referral Program began in March and already has produced a few leads for new hires.

"Retirees, in particular, offer the advantage of knowing TI and knowing the markets we compete in," explains Roger Coker, Director of U.S. Staffing and Sourcing for TI. "They are a built-in screening tool for us. They know the environment of TI, the culture here, and what it takes to be successful. When you have the advantage of people knowing the company, they're going to bring in a much higher quality candidate."

He says former employees often have great connections, as they are involved in community groups, alumni activities and other events that expand the range of people they are in contact with. TI is banking on its Retiree Refer-

Who's eligible?

Interested in referring a candidate? Here is the criteria for eligibility:

1. The candidate must not already have an active resume, referral or employment application on file. Active resumes and referrals are those that were received or reactivated within the last six months. Resumes and referrals become inactive after six months without activity.

2. Candidates cannot be a TI contractor.

3. Referrals must not have been discovered through participation in a TI-sponsored recruiting event.

4. Co-op positions are not eligible.

To find out what jobs are available at TI, log on to www.ti.com.

ral Program to be just as successful as the Employee Referral Program.

"The quality of candidates we get through our referral plan is better than any other recruiting activities," Roger points out. "They tend to be higher in terms of character, ability and experience. People are cautious to refer someone who isn't going to meet

TI standards."

Of course, TI alum who participate in the referral program are rewarded for their contributions. When a referred candidate is hired, the individual who provided that referral is given a set amount of money, based on the position. Manufacturing specialist positions will earn \$500 for the individual who referred that candidate. New college graduates and experienced professionals put \$1,500 in the pocket of the individual who referred them, and other positions can pay up to \$3,000.

"We have specials and bonuses, such as when we have positions that we need to fill quickly, and those can earn more money for the person who made that referral," Roger says.

The best way to make a referral, he says, is to obtain an electronic version of the candidate's resume and e-mail it to the Employee Referral Program Administrator at erpadmin@list.ti.com. In the absence of a complete resume, Roger recommends sending in a brief bio with as much background information as possible, including the candidate's name, phone number and/or e-mail address, current employment responsibilities, education and what they know about that individual.

Where to call

Do you have a question or a problem on matters of concern to TI retirees and TI Alumni Association members, but you aren't on the Internet and don't have access to Website information? Don't despair; you can use the telephone to get help. Here are numbers you can call.

TI Health Benefit Plans

For questions or information about claims, call the TI Health Answer Line at 817-467-6846 if you're in the Dallas Metro Area, or 800-433-5008 if you're calling from outside the Metro Area.

For changes in coverage or questions about premium payment, call Automatic Data Processing at 800-631-6965.

To locate a TI Health Plan network provider for the area in which you live, call First Health Provider Locator at 800-942-9221.

For general information on your participation in TI Health Benefit Plans, call the HR 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 at hand when they call these numbers for information:

Raytheon Benefits Center — 800-358-1231

Prudential Health Care — 800-578-2826

Prudential Non-Network Services — 800-272-7087

Prudential Mail Order Prescriptions — 800-732-2165

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

Mental Health/Substance Abuse — 800-830-5156

MetLife Dental — 1-888-262-4877

TI Financial Benefits

For information on holdings in your CODA and Profit Sharing accounts, call the TI Participant Service Center at 800-949-401K.

TI Alumni Association

For questions about the association, call Max Post at 214-823-8973.

TI-Alumni Connected

For questions about or contributions to the TI Alumni Association newsletter, call the TI Alumni Association at 214-946-TIAA (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.

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

ALUMNI NEWS

Y'all come: Rootin' Tootin' Retiree Round-Up set for Sept. 14

● Get back in the saddle for a full day of old-fashioned fun at annual event.

Imagine a day filled with old friends, a rodeo featuring TI execs in the saddles, informative talks by TI's CEO and a nationally syndicated financial columnist, community exhibits and live country western music, and you've got the makings for this year's annual Big Event for TI Retirees.

The Rootin' Tootin' Retiree Roundup is set for Sept. 14 at the Mesquite Rodeo and Convention Center with activities planned from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person (pre-paid) or \$10 at the door and includes a barbecue buffet lunch. Scott Burns, financial columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*, is back by popular demand. Following his successful standing-room-only presentation at last year's Big Event, Scott is return-



TI CFO Bill Aylesworth and his wife, Billie, will participate in a cutting horse demonstration at the Rootin' Tootin' Retiree Roundup Sept. 14.

ing and will speak at 10:30. The lunch buffet will begin at 11:45.

The "Western Special" rodeo begins at 1 p.m. and will feature some special participants, includ-

ing Bill Aylesworth, TI's CFO, and his wife, Billie, in a cutting horse demonstration.

Tom Engibous, TI Chairman, President and CEO, is scheduled to speak to the audience at the rodeo.

Exhibitors from area clubs and civic organizations will be on hand, and flu and pneumonia shots will also be offered. The shots are at an additional cost for those not covered by Medicare.

For out-of-towners who want to stay overnight, discounted room rates are being offered by Hampton Inn Suites, located immediately adjacent to the rodeo complex. Call 800-426-7866 for information.

Chairing this year's event is Jerry Brandenburg, who commented that the Mesquite Rodeo facility can accommodate 2,000 parked cars, all within relatively close proximity to the exhibition hall and rodeo arena. "There is no bad parking, the facility has been renovated and is completely air conditioned, and the rodeo

Hampton Inn offering special rates

Do you live outside the Dallas/Fort Worth area and plan to attend the Retiree Roundup on Sept. 14? If so, you might want to take advantage of special overnight rates being offered by Hampton Inn Suites.

Located directly adjacent to the Mesquite Rodeo and Conference Center facility, the two-year old facility will have standard and king rooms at the discounted rate of \$69 plus tax, and double and king kitchen suites for \$89 per night, plus tax.

The prices also include a continental breakfast. Guests of the hotel can walk directly to the Mesquite Rodeo facility without going outside.

To reserve a room at this special discounted rate call 1-800-Hampton (800-426-7866) and mention to the operator that you are calling for the TI Retiree Event discounted rate.

The discounted rates are available only until Sept. 1, 2000.

promises to be the highlight of the day!" he said.

Invitations with reply cards will be mailed to thousands of retirees in early August.

For more information on the

event, please call Mary Farr at 214-946-4600 or email her at mary@corporatetechnologygroup.com. Event information is also available on the TI Alumni website at www.tialumni.org.

John Wilson finds himself all booked up

● TI retiree's early novel back in the news.

By Dot Adler

A novel by TI retiree John W. Wilson is making publishing news more than half a century after John wrote it as a college student.

High John the Conqueror is about an African-American cotton farm family and its struggle to make a living in southeast Texas river bottoms during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

First published by The Macmillan Company in 1948, *High John* received strong critical reviews as a "sociological" novel.

"The book sold moderately well for a while and then went out of print, to lie dormant and forgotten for many years," John said.

Then in 1985, *High John the Conqueror* was cited in the book, *Texas: A Literary Portrait*, by Don Graham. Graham, a University of Texas at Austin faculty member, taught

a well-known course on Life and Literature of the Southwest, originated by legendary Texas writer and teacher J. Frank Dobie.

Graham described the Wilson book as "the breakthrough novel on cotton culture" and said "*High John the Conqueror* paints a vivid picture of the sociology of segregation, of two cultures living in the same place but on unequal terms."

In 1986, as part of a Texas Sesquicentennial project, *High John* was reviewed as "one of the classics of Texas fiction" by James Ward Lee, director of North Texas State University's Center for Texas Studies.

Lee's interest in the novel led to its republication in 1998 by Texas Christian University Press in soft-cover format as part of its Texas Tradition series.

The book is now carried by booksellers



More than 50 years after it was first published, John Wilson's novel, "*High John the Conqueror*" has been reprinted as part of Texas Christian University Press' "Texas Tradition" series.

such as Barnes & Noble, Borders Books and Music and Amazon.com. An excerpt from the book can be accessed on the Texas A&M University Press Consortium website at www.tamu.edu/upress/.

"Again, sales are quite moderate," says John, who suspects most buyers are college students who have been assigned the book as required reading.

Within the last year, *High John the Conqueror* was added to the netLibrary catalog of online books that can be downloaded for a fee.

John said the novel got its start in 1940 with the publication of a short story in Southern Methodist University's literary magazine, *Southwest Review*. The short

story later was incorporated in the book.

Wilson became a student at SMU in 1941, but World War II intervened. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, First Marine Division, in the South Pacific, during the Okinawa campaign, and post-war in North China. On release from active duty, John returned to SMU, where he completed bachelor's and master's degrees in English.

He had resumed writing *High John the Conqueror* and requested permission to use the work as his master's thesis. The English faculty agreed, with the proviso that the book first had to be accepted for publication.

"I submitted the novel to The Macmillan Co., New York, where it was accepted on the first trip out," John said. "Thus, it became the first work of fiction to be accepted as a master's thesis by SMU."

John was employed as an SMU instructor in English to support a wife and child, and was writing short stories and a

second novel, when he was declared "combat ready" and recalled by the Marines for active duty in the Korean War.

After Korea, with two wars on his record, John resigned from the Marine Corps and found civilian employment in 1952 as advertising manager of Geophysical Service Inc., predecessor of the company that was becoming Texas Instruments Incorporated.

He served 33 years in various assignments with GSI, the former TI Science Services Division and the TI Corporate Staff, retiring at the end of 1985 as TI Internal Communications manager.

Today, John is active in forming the TI Alumni Association, is collecting a volume of his early short stories for possible republication, and is working on a family history for his grandchildren.

All hands on deck

● TIers can take on volunteer opportunities.

Looking for a valuable way to spend your spare time? Look no further! TI alumni have a few options for making the most of their summer fun.

● For starters, TI is partnering with the Volunteer Center of Dallas on June 3 to help Equestrian Center and Carpenter Elementary School. Volunteers are needed to help with activities that will include painting, minor repairs and grounds work. To put those handyman (or woman) skills to work, contact Max Post at 214-823-8973.

● Anyone who loves movies and science can combine those two passions just by signing up to volunteer at the Science Place/TI Founders IMAX Theater. The Science Place helps make science accessible, understandable — and even fun — both to children and adults, and volunteers also get great benefits at the museum.

Volunteers are needed for exhibit demonstrators, storytellers, hosts/ushers for the IMAX Theater, teachers, lab assistants and sales associates. Volunteers are also needed for clerical and administrative work. To volunteer, contact Meredith Willingham at 214-428-5555, ext. 342.

● On June 22-25, Dallas will host the 2000 Olympic's USA Wrestling trials at Reunion Arena. Volunteers are sought to help with the event, which is the final of three U.S. Olympic trials. Anyone with questions about volunteering for the trials, or for Dallas 2012, is encouraged to contact Kay Kettles at 214-875-3024 or at kkettles@2012dallas.org.

ALUMNI NEWS

Retirees make sure the world is wired for those around them

● Benefits website, computer labs just part of their volunteer efforts.

By Dot Adler

Retirees can get TI benefits information via the Internet, thanks to a successful effort by retirees Bill Stearns and Gene Ricci.

They instigated, developed and continue updating a Retiree Health and Wellness web site, <http://w3.ext.ti.com/hr>. It can be accessed directly, or from the TI Alumni Association website, <http://www.tialumni.org>.

Bill and Gene saw the need for a retiree website soon after they retired from TI in December 1996. At that time, retirees couldn't access TI Health Plan provider network listings on the Internet, although active TIers could get the information using TI's intranet, or TIOLR.

"We encountered a significant amount of frustration and discontent among retirees because of this," Bill said.

They contacted Mary Ann Howarth, former Human Resources Service Center manager, in early 1997 and expressed the concerns of retirees who needed access to the health plan information.

Work on the website initially was delayed because of budget and manpower limitations as well as the "newness" of using the Internet to communicate. But in early 1998, Bessie Gray, HRSC manager, and Kevin Goldman, HRSC computer support, began working with Bill and Gene on the website's development and implementation.

To make the retiree website useful, retirees were canvassed and their "care abouts" were summarized. "Their number one



TI retirees Bill Stearns and Gene Ricci were instrumental in developing a Retiree Health and Wellness web site for TIers. They also have helped establish computer labs for students and senior citizens in South Dallas.

priority was the availability of current TI Health Plan hospital, doctor and pharmacy network provider information on the Internet," Bill said.

The team determined that the retiree website should mirror the internal site, and all network information should come from the same data base. Thus, retirees would have access to the same data and updates as active TIers, at the same time.

When the retiree website was released in November 1998, Bill and Gene had flyers distributed at the retiree picnic at the Dallas Arboretum. They also generated an article in the December 1998 issue of *TI Connected* which asked for suggestions on content improvement. The website is

updated quarterly.

Suggestions for the website can be e-mailed to Bill and Gene at bstearns-dallas@worldnet.att.net and genr@swbell.net. Gene sends out an alert each time the site is updated. Any retiree who wants to be notified of updates can send a request to Gene, providing an e-mail address.

Bill and Gene both joined TI in 1968, Bill in the Defense Systems and Electronics Group and Gene in Semiconductor. Primarily, they were Dallas-based, but their work with subcontractors took them to all parts of the world.

They started their professional relationship during the early part of 1991 when a support problem developed with a major integrated circuit assembly subcontractor.

The firm had "lost" its recipe and started to ship product that no longer met specifications. So a mini taskforce (engineering and purchasing) was formed to get the subcontractor back on track.

When they retired in 1996, Bill was a Senior Member of the Technical Staff (SMTS) working in the ASP Packaging Development area, and Gene was the Worldwide Subcontractor Commodity Management Team Leader for S/C Procurement.

Both men supported community activities while employed at TI and have continued during their retirement. They learned of the need for help with the computer lab at Trinity River Mission, a community center that provides supplemental educational opportunities for children in the Los

Altos community of West Dallas.

After several meetings, Bill and Gene did a full assessment of what was needed, obtained funding and upgraded the facility. Six months later, the Trinity River Mission computers were upgraded to Windows 95, with larger hard drives, CD ROMS, peer-peer networking and full-time ISDN access to the Internet.

Word spread, and soon Bill and Gene were involved with the community center lab project at St. Philip's School, which serves students, senior citizens and youth in South Dallas. "This project involved creating a total computer lab — from scratch," Gene said.

They made a proposal and presented it to a church group to obtain funding. Three months later, a computer lab with 15 fully networked computers was in place. They also obtained additional funding to upgrade the school's administration computer server network.

Then they were contacted by Avance, one of the first family support and education programs in the United States and one of the first comprehensive, community-based family support programs to target the at-risk and Hispanic populations.

Avance, hearing of the Trinity River Mission work, asked Bill and Gene to upgrade the computers in their administration department and network them to their national headquarters in San Antonio. The project was completed in four months.

Additionally, Bill and Gene prepared the documentation to apply for software grants from Microsoft. All three grant applications were approved which resulted in up to \$30,000 of free software (Windows, Office 2000, Encarta, etc.) for each facility.

Part-time artists sought

TI alumni are being encouraged to participate in the On My Own Time city-wide competition, sponsored by the Dallas Business Committee for the Arts. On My Own Time showcases the artistic talents of participating companies, including TI, who agree to host individual art shows at their place of business. Each company show is judged by professional artists in seven categories. The first-place winner in each category will be exhibited in a citywide art show at NorthPark Center. Categories include photography, sculpture, crafts, computer art, paintings on canvas, and works on paper. Both amateur and professional divisions are offered.

For more information, please contact Barbara Kruse at 214-480-6720.

Get caught up in the World Wide Web

● Online options exist for people who don't own a personal computer.

By John Wilson

"*Won't you step into my parlor?*" said the spider to the fly.

This invitation is still open to you if you aren't one of the millions of people, young and old, who daily go online to the World Wide Web and the Internet for the wealth of information and myriad of opportunities to be found there.

So you don't have (and maybe don't want) a personal computer (PC) at home? What if you're retired and don't have the use of a net-connected computer at work? And what if you would still like to see what all the World Wide Web and dot.com fuss is about, gain access to the TI Alumni Association Website (www.tialumni.org), and use e-mail to stay in touch with your children and grandchildren?

Well, take heart. You can still get caught in the Web. And it doesn't need to cost you an arm

and a leg, either. Here are a few suggestions that can lead you to expanded information horizons.

Go to the library. Sample the Web for free at your local library or library branch. Most public libraries now have computers connected to the Internet. You may have to wait your turn and limit your time online, because this free service is popular. But it's a good way to get your feet wet and learn to navigate among the many, many web sites and web pages awaiting your attention. If you need help getting started, usually a library

staff member will be available to assist you.

WebTV. *Modern Maturity*, the bi-monthly publication of AARP, saw fit to give this appliance a write-up in its May-June 2000 issue. A WebTV unit sits atop your television set and can be switched on to turn your TV screen into a computer monitor. The unit hooks up to your phone line to bring cyberspace into your home. You can't do computer chores, such as word processing and setting up spreadsheets, with WebTV, but you can send and receive e-mail and

Some reading will help

If you're not already computer-literate and familiar with the Web, a little reading to get you started won't hurt. Read the "Personal Technology" section of *The Dallas Morning News* for current tips, and take a look at the "Idiot's Guide" titles at your local bookstore or office supply store. If you should decide to go whole hog and get yourself a PC for home use, first try reading *The Complete Idiot's Guide to PCs* by Joe Kraynak.

surf the net. Inquire at a computer store for details. WebTV costs range from about \$99 for the most basic units up to \$199 for units with more advanced features. There's a monthly Internet service provider fee ranging from \$19.95 to \$24.95. Printers to go with the unit are available at additional cost.

i-opener. Netpliance, Inc., offers i-opener to provide e-mail and Internet access without a computer. The appliance is a flat-screen LCD unit that uses a 56K modem to connect to the Internet via your phone line. Currently priced at \$99, i-opener provides one e-mail account and has a monthly service fee of \$21.95, plus long-distance charges if applicable. For \$99.95 Netpliance offers a color printer that can be attached to the unit.

Retiree Computer Center. Plans for a room at the Texins Activity Center with computers for TI retirees to use have not come to fruition yet, but they're still in the works, according to TIAA Steering Committee Chairman Max Post. Hang in there.