

# TIAA TIA Alumni eNews

[www.tialumni.org](http://www.tialumni.org)

## TIAA Travel Events

**2015 Recap:** *The Travel & Events committee arranged 18 day trips through 2015 with approximately 300 participants. These adventures were usually within 100 miles of the Metroplex and included sports, shopping, weather forecasting, Indian reservations and a police headquarters tour. Participants taking our surveys indicated the interaction among the TI alumni (and the various restaurants we visited) added enjoyment and many laughs to their lives.*



**February 9, Movies Set in the Lone Star State, Texins Activity Center** – Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Larry Ratliff has been a professional film critic since 1983 and served as film critic and movie



feature writer for the San Antonio Express News newspaper. He also wrote several lifestyle articles for the Dallas Morning News. He is now a public speaker, humorist and award winning film critic. Larry has covered the Academy Awards on several occasions for newspapers and for NBC. He promises to bring us information about the movies filmed in Texas with wit and humor. We will also enjoy popcorn and soft drinks. There is no charge for any of this so come and enjoy! Please [register](#) online for this event so we will have enough snacks for all.

**February 25, Carlyn Ray Design, Glass Blowing**

**Demonstration** – Thursday, 9:15 am - 2:00 pm. Carlyn Ray Studios, a place where professional artists and glassblowers create beautiful glass art, including Ray's signature "weaving" pieces is also a place of community, where people of all ages can learn how glass is made and try their hand at it. In their 3,000 square foot studio, they will demonstrate the process of glassblowing. Sand is heated to the temperature of lava, the hottest material on earth, until it becomes molten. It is then shaped by the artist's breath. Most of the seating is stadium style on bleachers. Since glass becomes fluid at a very high temperature, the room will be warm! So, please dress accordingly. The demonstration will begin at 10 am and last approximately 2 hours. Lunch will be at The Bridge Bistro at our own expense. Cost is \$26 for members and \$29 for nonmembers. Please [register](#) online for this event.



### **March 23, Cherry Blossom Festival, Dallas Arboretum –**

Wednesday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Each North Texas spring brings these awe-inspiring puffs of pink and white cherry blossoms to the Dallas Arboretum. Cherry trees are one of the most beautiful flowering trees covered with puffs of pinkish cotton candy, but blossoms only last about 10 days (assuming we do not get a torrential, spring storm.) There are over 150 cherry trees here, reaching up to 30 feet tall, and they bloom profusely plus we can walk the garden trails (or catch one of their shuttle carts) to enjoy their other stunning landscapes. After touring we will eat at Chili's at our own expense and return around 1:00 pm. Cost is \$18 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Please [register](#) online for this event.



### **March 31 – April 2, Jefferson, Texas and Caddo Lake Tour –** Since the early 1800's, Jefferson has been building an intriguing history that can be experienced today. We will be staying at the Steam



Boat Inn, a little slice of New Orleans in Texas at \$124 per person for both nights including breakfast at 9 am. Friday we will visit Uncertain Texas on the Caddo Lake to enjoy a tour of the bayou for \$20/person. Saturday afternoon will see us on the hissing, whistle blowing, pistons chugging Old Engine #7 of the Historic Jefferson Railroad as we take us a scenic trip along the Big Cypress Bayou for \$15 (and we may see alligators along the way.) The rest of your time could be filled with a Jefferson Historical Museum visit, or the Scarlett O'Hardy's Gone with the

Wind Museum, the Jefferson Carnegie Library, the historic Jefferson Ghost Walk, the Vintage Vehicles Car Museum, antique shopping and other attractions. Some have minimal fees so we will supply brochures with more details and a map. Plus, of course, keeping up our reputation, we will also sample several interesting restaurants during our stay. Plans are to either carpool or meet at the Steam Boat Inn about 4 pm on Thursday, March 31. Lodging must be secured individually by calling the Steam Boat Inn at 903-96-7741 and providing your credit card info. You also need to [register](#) online for the bayou and train tours no later than March 15 as we are limited to 12.

## **Community Involvement Events**

**2015 Recap:** *During 2015, we had 47 members volunteer for one or more of our 14 events spending 560 hours working making a difference in the life for many people served by the agencies we supported. Our goal at TIAA is to provide fun, interesting, and varied volunteer activities that generally require low-impact effort so anyone can safely volunteer for these activities. The time commitment is about four hours at each event. We ride a "Senior Source" van from the TI Texins Activity Center to the agencies. And, we usually end the afternoon with lunch at a nearby restaurant. The comradery and friendships formed during the activities certainly makes the effort worthwhile. And the agencies and their clients served are very appreciative of our volunteers. Many volunteer events are planned for 2016 including several agencies that provide food to clients (CCS, White Rock City of Hope,*

*Network Ministries, and Meals on Wheels). We also plan to go to agencies that provide vital clothing, school supplies, or handicap aids and services to their clients (Metrocrest Services, Legacy at Preston Hollow Center, Dallas Ramps, and CitySquare). And, we even have one that trains lawyers – SMU Mock Trials – an annual event that allows us to act as jurors while the student lawyers improve their trial skills. Thank you very much for joining us throughout the year to help those in need throughout the Metroplex. Please consider joining us for one of our upcoming events.*

**February 11, Crossroads Community Services, Dallas –**

Thursday, 7:30 am to 1:30 pm. Crossroads has two primary goals: to help ensure that all people in Dallas County have ready access to nourishing foods; and to provide life-skills education that can help reduce obesity in impoverished areas. Volunteers will assist Crossroads “neighbors” in selecting grocery items and/or helping in the clothing distribution area. Afterwards, we will have lunch at a local restaurant (at your own expense). We will catch a Senior Source bus at the Texins Activity Center at 7:30 am to arrive at CCS in time for their mandatory orientation session. Lunch afterward is on our own at a restaurant downtown before returning home around 1:30 pm. Please [register](#) online for this event.



**March 14, White Rock Center of Hope – Monday, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm.**



White Rock Center of Hope provides emergency aid to neighbors in the forms of food pantry, clothing, transportation, financial assistance, etc. It is supported by contributions of individuals, organizations and area churches. Please join us at the Texins Activity Center to board a Senior Source bus at 8:30 am. Volunteers will mainly work in the food pantry area filling food bags to be ready for distribution. Also, volunteers will perform other pantry duties or assist in the clothing distribution area as needed. Afterwards, we will have lunch at a local restaurant (at our own expense) and arrive back to the Texins Activity Center by 1:30 pm. Please [register](#) online for this event.

## **TIAA Breakfast Meeting**

**February 19, Friday, 9:30 am.** All TI retirees, TIAA members and their spouses are invited to this informal get-together for breakfast at the Southern Recipe Grill, 621 W. Plano Pkwy (just South of Macy's at Collin Creek Mall), Plano. We meet 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. Contact Jon Campbell at [jonscampbell@gmail.com](mailto:jonscampbell@gmail.com) or (214) 507-1500.

**Next TIAA Breakfast: March 18, Friday, 9:30 am.**

## Friendly Reminders

When getting gas, remember to lock your car. A TIAA retiree recently had her purse taken from her car while filling her gas tank. Also, it's a good idea to copy the driver's license and credit cards carried in your wallet and leave the copies in safe place at home.

## New and Renewing Members

Recently Wiley Christal, Berton Epler, and Carl Panasik became new members and Alton Blair, H. Ray Calvert, Paula Calvert, Doug Kostlan, Shirley Lima, Veriato Lima, LeeRoy Schmedthorst, Ben Schranil, William Shull, Thomas Sutter and Bertha Wallace renewed their memberships. Welcome all.

## In Memoriam

We add new names and obituaries of former Tiers to our new website several times a week and currently have over 11,000 entries. To view the names, members can go to [In Memoriam](#) and then click on Date so the most recent deaths will be displayed first. You can also sort the list by **City** or **State** or use the **Find** function to locate a particular person. Or members can go to [Recent Obituaries](#) to read those for the preceding year in date sequence.

## Adding Comments to Obituaries

TIAA searches obituary listings from more than 1,500 North America newspapers to provide the most timely information available about former Tiers. At the bottom of each obituary is an area where any member is welcome to leave memorial messages about former coworkers. After you are logged in to our web page, select a record on which you would like to comment either by accessing them via **Membership > Recent Obituaries** and clicking on the retiree's name or using **Membership > Directory Search** to see if we have an obit on record for your friend and then click on their **Obituary** link. Once you find the record, click on the **Add New Comment** box and add your message. Press **Save** and your thoughts will be recorded and available for other TIAA members to read.

## TI Alumni eNews

Published monthly by the TI Alumni Association to help inform the TI alumni community about news and activities of interest to TIAA alumni. Editorial Staff: Marilyn Adams, Editor, Jon Campbell, Managing Editor; Jerry Brandenburg, Ronnie Brandenburg, Larry James, Max Post, Jessica Stewart and Linda Stopani, Contributors. Alumni with general inquiries about TIAA should contact the TIAA Office by emailing [admin@tialumni.org](mailto:admin@tialumni.org), mailing to TIAA, PO Box 740181, Dallas, TX 75374 or by calling 214-567-8444.