

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

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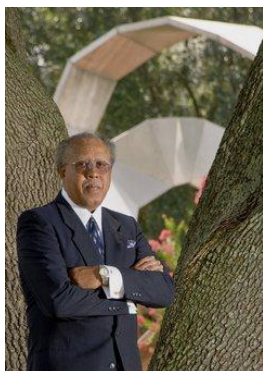
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This Week, June 4th, 2013 William H. Harris



Dr. William H. Harris' career in higher education is both long and distinguished. He is a well renowned academician who has contributed to his field of study as a historian and served the higher education community as the president and chief executive officer for both public and private post-secondary institutions.

After studying and completing his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history at Indiana

University, Dr. Harris began his professional educational career at Indiana University as an assistant professor of history. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a full professor of history as well as the associate dean of Indiana University's graduate school and director of its minority fellowships program. Harris also was a Fulbright Professor and visiting professor of history at the University of Hamburg, Germany from 1977 to 1978.

At the age of 37, Dr. Harris assumed the presidency of Paine College in 1982, becoming one of the youngest college presidents ever appointed at that time. He served as the college's chief executive officer for six years and subsequently led Texas Southern University as its president from 1988 to 1993.

In 1994, Dr. Harris came to Alabama State University as its tenth president and served with distinction until his retirement in 2000. Never one to shirk the call to serve, he briefly left retirement in 2005 to assume the role of interim president at Fort Valley State University and did the same thing in 2008 when he assumed the presidency of Texas College. In 2009, Dr. Harris returned to Alabama State University as its president. Dr. Harris is married to Wanda Fillmore Harris and the couple has two children, Cynthia and William J. Harris.

Last Week, May 28

Dr. Hardin

Dr. Hardin spoke to us about the many accomplishments of the College, and gave reference to the 1926 Rose Bowl. The Rose Bowl that year was the first Bowl game for Alabama, our 1st National Championship, and our first Rose Bowl win. It was referred to as the game that changed the South, because prior to being in this Bowl – no one in America believed that a team from the South could produce a winning football team!

Dr. Denny, President of UA at the time did something extraordinary. Against all odds he grew the football program at UA during the great depression...and it paid off. He did not follow the best practices of the day – he created the best practices of the day.

In 1983, the GM Plant located in Tuscaloosa Alabama, was on the verge of a shut down. Dr. Thomas at the University was courageous enough to try something new. He created a program partnering an academic community with a work community as students from UA began working with the employees and management at the GM Plant to find and create the "Best Practices" that saved the company millions of dollars and helped the employees and management gain a great new respect for Academia.

The Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration is ranked 29th among public institutions and 73rd among all (public and private) institutions with business schools. The Manderson Graduate School is 29th among all public institutions and 58th among all. UA has the largest business school in the SEC, and has 58% in-state enrollment and 42% out-of-state. The 42% of out-of-state students sends ambassadors out to bring recognition to the program or better yet – they stay and create jobs right here in our community or State! We also have a winning website for these colleges that has been globally recognized.

We have International graduates and we have an EMBA program in Turkey, and host summer trips there. Also created is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) pathway to an MBA. These students must have scored 28 or higher on the ACT. The average student in the program has a score of 33. This year over 140 are already enrolled and the program has reached capacity, and is currently having to turn students away!

The business school was accredited in 1927 and is one of the oldest business schools in the South. Recently the school received an overall "Excellent" review from the AACSB team during the review in January. Standards that have already been implemented at the school were already in place before they were even voted on in April by the Accreditation Team!! Once again...creating "Best Practices".

Dr. Hardin's goal is to be in the top 25 public business schools within the next 5 years, according to the rankings in US News & World Report. Rankings are important because companies hire based on these. Rankings also help recruit great faculty and students. Innovation, Rigor and Relevance is the path to success. After reviewing data, we are lower in endowments than Dr. Hardin would like to be. Many other business schools receive large endowments annually from large corporations and their Alumni. If you are alumni of the business school, or with a large local company that can benefit from these graduates, please consider supporting the program. There is an economic advantage to having a strong University for in-state Corporations. This attracts quality employees and creates a successful environment in the state for recruiting new business.

The school's new goals are Research and Outreach. What do we need to do to be innovative? The article "Need a job? Invent it!" was referenced as it was previously by Gina Simpson from the Edge. We need to capitalize on keeping students here and the Edge has done just that according to Dr. Hardin. It is meeting the needs of the changing workforce. The Culverhouse SEALS will emerge soon. This is a "rapid response" team for local businesses in need.

With the current great momentum, and a strategic plan, UA will continue to be a leading school choice for top academic students.



Announcements

- Steve Katsinas announced that there is a 501C3 fund for donations to tornado relief in OK. Rotary Clubs all over the US assisted us in our recovery efforts, and if anyone would like to donate – our club will reciprocate.

- Sherriff Billy Sharp thanked Rotary for the opportunity to be a part of the latest Honor Flight trip to DC. Sharp is a Korean War Veteran and talked about what a fantastic gift this was to so many in our community.
- Susan Caples honored Sabrina Sheffield, who has been the Sponsor/Advisor of the Interact Club at Hillcrest High School for 13 years. We have seen Interact Clubs come and go, but Hillcrest has stood strong and averages over 100 students in the club each year – and it is only for juniors and seniors!! Ms. Sheffield received the plaque and thanked the Club for continued support. She said it is the most desired club to be a part of in the school and told us of many projects in the community they have been a part of.
- During the month of June, Rotary Guests meals will be free of charge! Please be encouraged to bring a guest during June in order to take advantage of this program.



News from the Rotary Foundation

Our top priority is ERADICATING POLIO. Thanks to Rotary and our international partners, the number of polio cases has dropped 99 percent worldwide since 1988. But as long as polio threatens even one child, children everywhere are at risk.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1 billion to the fight to end polio. Rotarians work tirelessly to leverage this investment, acting as advocates among communities and with government leaders to keep them focused on eradication.

Rotary's partners include UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 11
Dr. David Bronner
RSA

June 18
Tim Nunnally City
of Tuscaloosa
Attorney

June 25
Nancy Buckner
DHR
Commissioner for
Alabama

“If there is any one particular in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organizations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris



Guests May 28

Guests at the May 28th meeting of the Club included: **Ryan Flynn**, guest of Jack Warner (Yellowhammer Inn); **Gina Simpson**, guest of Jim Page (The Edge); **Chuck Karr**, guest of Karen Baldwin (Education UA); **Daniel Montiel**, guest of Jim LaMoreaux; The following were guests of **Dr. Hardin**: **Lottie Burleson, Bill Gerdes, Sam Azlay, Ron David, Dan Blankley, Hill Rowan, and Milla Boschug**; **Willie Hardin**, guest of Glenda Guyton (Dr. Hardin's son).



At the Head Table May 28

Sara Barger (speaker intro), **Debbi Besant** (Invocation), **David Pass**(guest intro), **Stacy Kirkland** (Pledge).

ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY...

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 AM at Indian Hills Country Club.
- Attend another club's meeting within two weeks before or after an absence.
- Participate in a Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, social function, Interact event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: www.rotaryclubone.org.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES