

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com

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January 3: University of Alabama President Robert Witt Leads “Best and Brightest”



Since his arrival in 2003, University of Alabama President Dr. Robert Witt has overseen what must be one of the most remarkable transformations of a college campus our state and region have seen in the last generation.

From the beginning Witt’s aim has been to make Alabama “the University of choice for the best and the brightest.” And by every measure, from enrollment to test scores to fundraising and (of course) even football, UA’s achievements in pursuit of that aim, under Witt’s leadership, have been hard to argue.

Enrollment has reached over 30,000 students. And those who enroll are among the university’s strongest ever, and strongest in the nation—the Fall 2010 class ranks in the top 15% nationally in average ACT, with nearly 1,400 students boasting a perfect 4.0. The University also claimed 128 National Merit Scholars in 2010.

On Tuesday January 3, Rotarians will once again hear from President Witt on how he and the University have made their way to these and other goals, and on what lies ahead for the future at the Capstone. “Our University is still a work in progress,” Witt has said. “Our journey is not completed.”

Last Week: December 20

Tim Leopard Helps Build the Future at UA



Tim Leopard, Assistant Vice President for Construction at the University of Alabama, spoke to the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa last Tuesday on the recent building campaigns at the Capstone, and on many of the future plans for growing the campus.

Leopard presented a compelling case for the recent growth through some impressive raw numbers. 43 new facilities have been built on campus since 2003, encompassing over 3 million square feet of space. There have also been 32 major renovations or additions, totalling nearly 1 million square feet. From Foster Auditorium to Coleman Coliseum to the world-class Science and Engineering campus (pictured above), the University has spent its dollars wisely to ensure that the landscape and facilities of the Capstone match the high standards the University has set for its students, faculty and staff.

Leopard also outlined a remarkable range of future projects, including the new 60,000 foot North Bluff Recreation and Dining Facility, a new Campus Police center and several new fraternity and sorority houses.

Leopard has overseen almost all of this recent growth. He began working with the University as a consultant in 2004, and as an employee since 2006. In that capacity he is responsible for a wide range of issues, from inception to completion of each project: alignment with the campus master plan, improving the living and learning environment for faculty and students, diminishing the impact of construction activities on the campus community, and providing projects that will provide the lowest overall lifecycle cost to the University.



January Birthdays

Ryan Stallings (1/2), Bruce Henderson (1/3), Riley Lumpkin (1/4), Bob Haubein (1/6), Chipper Rabbit (1/8), David Saylor (1/13), Todd Bryant (1/17), Bob Reed (1/17), Jack Evans (1/20), Tonya Cargile (1/22), Bill Elrod (1/25), Warner Johnson (1/27), Dennis Peck (1/28), James McLean (1/29).



Salvation Army Campaign Update



As reported last week, The Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa effort for the Salvation Army was a great success. And as Chuck Turner reported to the Club this week, we can now be more concrete: Rotarians raised more than \$1,600 this year! Thanks again to John Snider, his committee, and all who volunteered for a great effort.

And again be sure to check out the Club website (www.rotarytuscaloosa.com) for more images of our Bell Ringers!



Guests, December 20

Guests at the December 20 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included **John Nasir**, son of Pete Nasir; **Brandon Clark** (Realtor) and **Kevin Kenemer** (Construction Management), guests of Bill Lunsford; **Gina Johnson** (U of A), guest of Susan Capers and **Georgine Duckworth**, wife of John Duckworth.



At the Head Table, December 20

Rotarian Andrew Hudson and his wife Stephanie are graduates of Mississippi State. He also worked for seven years as a golf professional. He is a Certified Insurance Counselor with Pritchett-Moore. He and Stephanie have three Children, Lauren (12), Brooke (10) and Mackenzie (7) He has served as Vice President of Pritchett-Moore for over 4 years now. **Rotarian Rufus Lewis** recently retired from Social Security with over 40 years of service. He is married to Lois LaFollette Lewis and they are parents of three grown children. Both Lois and Rufus are Paul Harris fellows and are active members of Canterbury Episcopal Chapel and Student Center. Rufus also serves on the Salvation Army Advisory Board and on the Kentuck Board. **Rotarian Sammy Watson**, a native of Tuscaloosa, worked in radio for twenty-five years. He served on the Tuscaloosa city council from 1985-1995, and served as Council President his last two years. He is currently Director of Community Relations for the DCH Health system, and is active in numerous charities and on numerous boards. **Rotarian Steve “Rodney” Landreth** is Founder, CEO and Medical Director for Tuscaloosa, Pickens, Greene and Hale Co. EyeCare. He is a graduate of UAB with degrees in Optometry, and is a member of numerous optometric associations and boards. While serving in the United States Navy he also obtained qualification as a Nuclear Power Engineer on the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). He has two sons.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 27

No Meeting

January 3

UA President
Robert Witt

January 10

No Meeting

“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

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 AT
nancysjones@bellsouth.net