

# The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa  
P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — [www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com](http://www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com)  
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## Club Officers, 2011-12

Warner Johnson  
*President*

James Leitner  
*President-Elect*

Nancy Jones  
*Secretary*

Laura Aaron  
*Treasurer*

Frank Deaver  
*Executive Director*

Becky York  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

## Directors, 2010-11

Clark Swail  
*Membership*

Lee Henderson  
*Programs*

Jimmy Mixson  
*Communications*

Glenda Guyton  
*Vocational*

Chuck Turner  
*Community Service*

Mark Heinrich  
*International*

Ralph Clements  
*Foundation*

Jim Shamblin  
*Past President*

Jerry Shepherd  
*Assistant District Governor*

## January 17: State Treasurer Young Boozer on Alabama's Fiscal Outlook



Aside from all of the football talk of late, few topics are more persistent and pressing in the news than government finance. On Tuesday, after recovering from the BCS festivities, Rotarians will return to Indian Hills to hear from **Alabama State Treasurer Young J. Boozer, III** on the financial issues facing our state.

Boozer, a native of Tuscaloosa, earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford University and a master's degree in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Over four decades he worked for Citibank in New York, Crocker National Bank in Los Angeles, Coral Petroleum in Houston and Colonial Bank in Montgomery. Boozer then served as Deputy State Finance Director for Governor Bob Riley until early 2010, when he ran for State Treasurer.

He is a member of and has held leadership roles in several organizations, including the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery, the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Boy Scouts of America and Stanford University.

## January 3: Alabama's President Robert Witt Celebrates Nine Years of Progress



Since his arrival in 2003, University of Alabama President Dr. Robert Witt has sought to make Alabama “the University of choice for the best and the brightest.” On January 3 the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa heard again from Dr. Witt on how much progress UA has made in recent years toward that lofty goal. **Rotarian Pam Parker** introduced our speaker.

Key for Witt and his colleagues has been the attempt to strike a balance between etween sustainable growth and excellence, while also maintaining an emphasis on stable finances, and the recruitment and retention of high-quality students and faculty.

The numbers bear out the success of the effort. As of Fall 2011 the University had 31,741 students, the largest student body in the school's history. Fall also saw the enrollment of the the largest freshman class in UA history (5,572 students), and the strongest academically. The class included a remarkable 182 National Merit scholars. And while for the first time a majority of the student body are not from Alabama (49% are from out of state and 3% are international), the University's first goal is still to take care of Alabama's students. Every qualified student from Alabama who applies will be accepted, Witt said. Moreover, having so many from beyond our state is crucial for moving the University forward. Non-residents not only pay more in tuition, but also enrich the diversity of the student body and the students' experience.

Dr. Witt also told Rotarians he is proud of the University's emphasis on diversity overall. When compared with other flagship Universities in the U.S., he said, Alabama is second in number and quality of African American Students, third in African American faculty and in senior administration.

And of course there is the investment in building a new campus for the coming century. UA has made \$ 1.3 billion investment in physical infrastructure and improvements. Much of this could not have been

completed, Witt pointed out, without help from Senator Shelby's grant and fundraising support.

But all of the numbers and accolades only tell part of the story. Although the April spared the campus, it cost six students lost their lives. And yet it brought out all that was best about the UA community. "I could not have been prouder of the reaction of students and faculty," Witt said.



## **Morning Club President George Lander on the Mend**

After a serious injury during a recent hunting trip, Morning Club President George Lander is making a fantastic recovery. Lander writes to all Rotarians: "I continue to be humbled by and appreciative of all the concern and prayers for my recovery. I'm still stiff and sore, but improving each day. I'm planning to return to work on Jan. 9th. I'm planning to have the energy to work full days. I appreciate you all and what you've done to support me."

George sends special thanks to the Noon Club for the Poinsettia. He wants us to know that "it continues to brighten the Lander household." Best of luck to George as he continues to heal.



## **Rotarians Celebrate another Paul Harris Fellow**

**Rotarian Don Alverson** has been honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. Don was presented with the honor at our January 3 meeting. It goes to all who make a \$1,000 donation to the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to Don, and our thanks to all Paul Harris Fellows!

## Rotaract Fundraisers a Great Success

Rotarian **Patricia Parnell** let Rotarians know of the recent success of two Rotaract fundraisers in December. Their second annual Reindeer Rendezvous on December 8 raised 100 lbs of canned food for the West Alabama Food Bank. Their second project, for Angel Tree, raised \$300 to help two children have a merry Christmas.



### Guests, January 3

Guests at the January 3 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included **James Leitner, Jr.**, son of James Leitner; **Betty Shamblin**, wife of Jim Shamblin; **Calvin Brown** (Alumni Affairs, UA), guest of Lee Henderson; **Charlie Bailey** (Insurance Agent), guest of Andrew Hudson; **Jim Page** (Chamber of Commerce), guest of Jordan Plaster and **Wilson Moore** (Pritchett Moore), guest of Stacey Kirkland.



### At the Head Table, January 3

**Rotarian Pam Parker** has been a Rotary member for over 15 years. She is also married to Rotarian Ed Parker. She served as President of the Tuscaloosa Club in 2001-02. She recently retired from UA after 25 years, where she served in several capacities, most recently as Vice President for Advancement. She has now dedicated her energy to a number of community service projects, including work with the Salvation Army, the West Alabama Community Foundation, and Junior Achievement. She is former President of the Junior League, the Alabama Choir School and Theatre Tuscaloosa. **Rotarian Charles Nash** is the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for The University of Alabama System. A Rotarian since 1984, Charles joined the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa in 1993. He has served on the Board and as President in 1998-99, and has served recently on the Interact Committee and as Advisor to Interact Club at Central High School. He is also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He has served as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, President of the United Way and Vice President of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 24

TBA

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January 31

TBA

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“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

**Dr. J. Michael Hardin** is Dean of the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration at The University of Alabama. He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of West Florida, a master’s degree from Florida State University, a master’s degree and a Ph.D., from the University of Alabama and a M.Div. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Hardin specializes in business analytics, business intelligence, data mining and knowledge discovery, decision support, predictive modeling, and research design. **Rotarian Michael Russell** is employed by Wells Fargo Bank. A graduate of Auburn University, he moved to Tuscaloosa in 1997 from Nashville. He has been a member of Rotary since 1998. His wife Alice is from Mobile and is employed by the Tuscaloosa City Schools as the Librarian at Verner Elementary. They have two daughters, Olivia (21) and Lane (17).

## 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](http://www.rotaryclubone.org).

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES AT  
[nancysjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:nancysjones@bellsouth.net)