

# 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*

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## Directors, 2010-11

Clark Swail  
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*Past President*

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## This Week, May 8 Bob Johnson and Habitat for Humanity Help Tuscaloosa Rebuild



In the aftermath of April 2011, among an army of volunteers and organizations, Habitat for Humanity has led the way in recovery in Tuscaloosa. This Tuesday Rotarians will hear more about the organization's recent work. Bob Johnson, Director of Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa, will speak to the club.

Bob grew up in Decatur and studied Economics and Political Science at the University of Alabama. He then completed graduate work at Fuller Seminary in California and Wheaton Graduate School in Illinois. He spent 18 years in pastoral ministry before going to work for Habitat for Humanity International.

Habitat owes its origins to Koinonia Farm, founded in 1942 by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan. Millard Fuller, who graduated from University of Alabama before building a successful business in Montgomery, later connected with Jordan, and together they developed the concept of "partnership housing." This led to the creation of Habitat for Humanity International in 1976.

Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa began in 1987 through the efforts of Hank Hawkins, a friend and classmate of Fuller's at the University of Alabama.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity and its work in Tuscaloosa, visit [www.habitattuscaloosa.org](http://www.habitattuscaloosa.org).

## Last Week, May 1

# State Superintendent of Education Thomas Bice



State Superintendent of Education Tommy Bice has heard all of the complaints and cries for reform that surround public education: the schools are in crisis; they are failing our children and do not serve the public; our dropout rates are too high, and our state is last in education. Last week, Bice came to the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa to dispel some of those myths, and to paint a realistic future for our schools. **Rotarian Jim McLean** introduced the speaker.

Bice noted that Quality Counts, an organization that ranks public education throughout the country, recently put Alabama at 25th in the nation for public education. Another organization, part of Colin Powell's initiatives for public education, ranked our state 4th in the nation for work in reducing dropout rates.

Alabama schools have other points of pride as well: an increase of 207% of minority participation in AP programs, for example, and distance learning for underserved rural areas. And recent measurements show the initiatives are working: one important national assessment, for example, shows that Alabama leads the nation in 4th grade reading.

Looking to the future, Bice emphasized that the success of any school system will be based on the quality of its teachers. He challenged Alabama to invest and to innovate, and especially to improve its pre-K education. He pointed to studies proving that a 129 million investment in state wide pre-K education would save 2 billion in future losses from poverty, drop-out rates and their consequences.



## Rotary of Tuscaloosa Honors Northside's Best



Last Tuesday evening, Rotarian **Jim McLean** presented a \$1,000 Tuscaloosa Rotary Club Scholarship to Mr. Brandon Hall, a graduating senior at Northside High School, our Adopt-a-School partner. Mr. Hall will be attending The University of Alabama in the fall and majoring in Engineering.

Honor students at Northside also received t-shirts for Honors Week that were provided by the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa. Congratulations to Brandon and to all of Northside's honor students!



## Morning Club Fundraiser May 19

Rotarian Millie Jackson of the Morning Club announced to Tuscaloosa Rotary their upcoming fundraiser, "Wine Down With Rotary." The event will be held on May 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the Harrison Gallery downtown. Fine wines and matching foods will be served. Tickets are \$ 50, with all proceeds going to Rotary's effort to eradicate Polio. Contact the Morning Club for more information.



## Rotarian Margaret King Honored

Dr. Margaret King has been awarded the Capstone Education Society's Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes academic excellence and outstanding service to the profession. Dr. King's name will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed in Graves Hall. We are honored that a member of Tuscaloosa Rotary is the recipient of this prestigious award. Congratulations to Dr. King!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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May 15

Susan West,  
Tuscaloosa  
Tourism

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May 22

Brigadier General  
Allen Harrell

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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



## Guests, May 1

Guests at the May 1 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa included **Renwick Jones** (Stillman College), guest of Jordan Plaster; **Grant Buck** (Hull and Associates), guest of Lewis Carnes; **Jamie Dykes** (Habitat for Humanity), guest of Tanya Carlisle; and **Dr. Lisa Ramirez** (Medical Research), guest of Becky York.



## At the Head Table, May 1

**Rotarian Susan Caples has been a member** of Rotary since 1995 and is a Past President. She is a graduate of Auburn University who has worked at the University of Alabama as Assistant Director of Transportation Services. She is a proud new grandparent. **Rotarian Sandra Ray** is owner of Hall-Ray Realty. She was the third female member of Tuscaloosa Rotary, and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. She is also a former school board member. **Rotarian Kim McMurry** is a registered Architect in Alabama and Georgia, a graduate of Arizona State University College of Architecture the MBA program at UAB. She has spent most of her career specializing in facilities for healthcare and education. **Jim Mclean** is a University Professor and Dean of the College of Education at The University of Alabama. He joined Rotary in early 2005, currently chairs the Rotary Adopt-a-School Committee and serves on the Scholarship Committee. Jim is also a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.