

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

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This Week, July 10 Dr. James Robinson, UA Team Physician



It's not hard to find a college football fan in Tuscaloosa. And it's not hard to find someone who likes a good, old-fashioned hit. "Smash mouth" football, as they often call it, is legendary in these parts.

It is harder to find fans who know firsthand just how violent, painful and damaging our beloved brand of football can be for our favorite football athletes. Or how hard it is just to keep the players healthy and in peak physical condition for their grueling championship runs.

This week, Tuscaloosa Rotarians will learn more about the challenges of keeping not only college football players healthy, but elite athletes in all of our sports, and the challenges of treating them when they are injured. **Dr. James Robinson**, UA's team physician for the Athletic Department, will speak to the club.

Robinson has served as UA's head team physician since 1989. He has a private practice, West Alabama Family Practice and Sports Medicine in Tuscaloosa. He is also director of the Dr. Bill deShazo Sports Medicine Center at the University of Alabama, and oversees the Sports Medicine Fellowship for Family Physicians.

Last Week, July 3

A July 4th Family Barbeque and Special Guest Thomas Melvill

Last week Rotarians celebrated Independence Day with a barbeque-style meal, with family and friends in attendance, along with a very special guest. **Thomas Melvill**, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, spoke to the club about life in the time of the American Revolution.

An officer in the American Revolution, Major Melvill served with Paul Revere in the artillery and was a company commander. He was appointed by President George Washington to be Inspector of the Port of Boston, and was reappointed by Presidents Adams, Jefferson and Madison.

Melvill entertained Rotarians with stories of the complexities of those days around July 2—the truly significant day, he reminded us, when the voting took place, not two days later when the famous Declaration was formally drafted, circulated and signed. He recalled the significant divisions among colonists' delegations in Delaware, and the courage it took to formally declare what the closing lines of the Declaration signaled as rebellion against the English Crown: The colonists pledged their “lives, fortunes and sacred honor” to their common cause, and the 56 who signed knew theirs was an act of treason punishable by death.

Melvill also reminded Rotarians—in their comfortable, festive surroundings—of the sacrifices that followed. “Were not many sacrifices made for your celebration today?” he asked. He then told stories of later revolutionaries—women and slaves among them—who fought with courage for the cause. He reminded us not to celebrate merely a day on the calendar, July 4, but Independence Day, a sacred day that should not be forgotten. “In our merriment,” he asked, “do we sometimes forget the sacrifices that men and women have made?” Not that we shouldn’t take the time to celebrate “with good cheer,” of course. But Melvill also challenged us to “take a quiet moment to reflect” on the meaning of the day, and to live lives that “warrant the continued favor of Providence on our nation.”

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 17

**Dr. Earnest
McNeely, Stillman
College**

July 24

**Judge Hardy
McCullom,
Tuscaloosa County
Probate Court**

July 31

**Alabama
Representative Bill
Poole**

August 7

George Wallace, Jr.

“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



Rotarian of the Week: Jim Drake

Last week **Rotarian Debbi Besant** introduced a new program designed to help Tuscaloosa Rotarians get to know one another a little better. This year, each week a Rotarian will interview and introduce one of our fellow club members. The following week, the interviewee will select another Rotarian to interview, and so on. The first Rotarian for this year's program was **Jim Drake**. Jim was born in Tuscaloosa in 1951. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and has owned and operated Kwik Kopy Printing with his wife Susan since 1984. Jim reminds Rotarians that he actually began his career in a way not unlike the TV sitcom *The Office*: He was a paper salesman before starting his business in Tuscaloosa. Jim's other passions include sailing—he owns two boats, one of them built in 1966—and music. He is of course the renowned drummer for the Rotations, and has played in other bands, including Simple Interest. But his greatest passion—husbands take note—is his wife Susan. Jim has perfect attendance since joining Rotary 28 years ago, and served as President in 2004-2005. During that year he was the leader of an initiative that installed the Rotary Centennial clock in front of the Tuscaloosa courthouse.