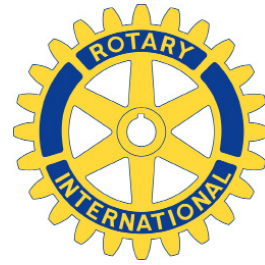


# The Nerve

A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa  
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*Service above self*



## OFFICERS

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*This Week — February 16, 2016*

## **Dr. Bharat Balasubramanian**

*Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies*

*The University of Alabama*



**D**r. Bharat Balasubramanian (Dr. B.) is a professor and the executive director of the Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies, a cross-disciplinary research center focused on automotive innovation at the University of Alabama.

In 2012, he retired as the vice president of group research and advanced engineering at Daimler in Stuttgart, Germany, responsible for product innovations and process technologies. Before that, Dr. B. worked for

nearly 40 years as a research and development engineer for the Mercedes-Benz brand, also in Stuttgart.

A native of India, Dr. B. began his career in the automotive industry after graduating from the Indian Institute of Technology. He began working with Daimler in 1974 and earned both his master's degree and doctorate while employed there. He began as a computational analysis engineer in the department for automatic transmissions and power steering systems. In 1988, he was named chief engineer and in 1997 became the vice president for engineering technologies in Mercedes-Benz passenger car research and development. Nine years later he was named vice

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**FEBRUARY 23**

**Jeff Schultz**

Arts & Music Coordinator  
Tuscaloosa City Schools

**MARCH 1**

**Shane Sharp**

Dean, UA Honors College

**MARCH 8**

**Jim Perdue**

Commissioner,  
Alabama Department  
of Mental Health

president of Daimler/Mercedes-Benz research and advanced engineering, responsible for 1,300 engineers in Germany and 1,000 more in international research and development locations.

Dr. B. has been at the forefront of most of the major advances that have occurred in automotive technology over the past 20 years. A recent innovation he helped develop is Magic Body Control, a feature of the current series of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class that uses cameras to scan the road profile ahead. He also led research in innovations for advanced driver assistance systems and active safety.

Besides his work at Daimler, he taught for 20 years at the Technical University of Berlin in the School of Automotive Engineering and Railway Technology and, in 1998, was named honorary professor.

Dr. Balasubramanian is married with two daughters and one granddaughter. He is an avid volleyball player, a passionate railroad modeler and a big trains photographer.



## Last Week — February 9, 2016

Our program last week on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) was held at the Bryant Conference Center on the University of Alabama campus. OLLI, part of the UA College of Continuing Studies, primarily serves members who are 50 years of age and older, but is open to anyone of any age who is interested in lifelong learning. OLLI offers more than 80 classes in the Tuscaloosa area, and also holds 'just for fun' events such as wine tastings and bird-watching trips. For more information, please visit the OLLI website at [training.ua.edu/olli/](http://training.ua.edu/olli/).

### *At the head table*

**Foote Hooper** — Pledge of Allegiance – retired

**Charlie Durham** — Invocation – retired

### *Guests*

Former member **Margaret King**, now living in Baton Rouge, was a guest of the club.

## *Annual meeting and election of officers*

• We will vote today on the officers and board members for our club for the 2016-2017 Rotary year. Their terms will begin July 1. Here is the list of nominees:

President: **Alan Hartley** (no election; defined progression from president-elect)

Vice President-elect: **Mark Nelson**

Secretary: **Caroline Williams**

Treasurer: **Patricia Powe**

Board: **Byron Abston, Bruce Burrows, Mike Chambers, David Pass, Sammy Watson, Jackie Wuska**

TRMF Board: **Rufus Lewis, Charles Nash, John Snider**

### **ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY**

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 a.m. 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, interactive event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org).

*Report all makeups to club secretary Caroline Williams at [caroline.williams@bbva.com](mailto:caroline.williams@bbva.com).*



