

# 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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Nerve Editor: Ryan Stallings

## This Week, September 17th, 2013 Dr. Charles L. “Chuck” Karr Dean UA Engineering

### Officers, 2013-14

Karen Baldwin  
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*Tuscaloosa Memorial  
Foundation*



Dr. Charles L. “Chuck” Karr brings more than 20 years of engineering experience to UA’s College of Engineering, most recently serving as the College’s associate dean for research and graduate studies.

Karr is a three-time graduate of UA, completing his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in 1984 and his master’s and doctorate in engineering mechanics in 1987 and 1989, respectively. After

receiving his doctorate, he spent seven years working as a research engineer with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Tuscaloosa Research Center, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Considered a leading expert in the area of intelligent systems, Karr is the author of three books and 20 book chapters, and he has published 44 refereed journal articles and more than 90 conference papers. He has become widely known for his pioneering work in combining genetic algorithms and fuzzy logic, and he has successfully applied these techniques in the aerospace, mineral processing, manufacturing and steel industries. In addition, he holds four international patents in the area of intelligent systems for locating the sources of radio signals.

## Last Week, September 10, 2013

### Tommy Bice

Our speaker today was Dr. Tommy Bice the Superintendent of the AL State Department of Education. Dr. Bice reports that a new direction is in place with "Plan 2020". Meetings have been held with industry, corporate partners, and higher education who "receive the final product" to determine what is lacking in today's high school grads. All point toward the same statement: "The desire to learn is not there".

Measures are in place to redefine the high school grad and create one that can roll into a 2 or 4 year college, industrial workforce training, or technical college and be successful. Many students have knowledge but they don't know how to apply it. This is a big focus on what and how to change. Teach them not only what but how. Also - they must have the desire to learn with the changing landscape of business and technology.

Currently there is a 72% graduation rate in the state. The Plan 2020 goal is for there to be a 90% graduation rate by then. In the first year of looking differently at how schools operate, there was a 3% change for the good which equates to 1,800 more graduates statewide! High School grads can earn up to \$450K more in their lifetime.

The state is setting new academic standards with new expectations. The new initiative gives the student the knowledge of how to apply what they learn in the real world with problem solving and critical thinking skills. Changes also include things like giving the final exam near the beginning of the year. If the student can pass it, they get credit for the course and move on to another class. There has to be a support system to help ALL children have the same opportunity. Out of 95 million students in the state 60% are on free lunch, meaning they come from a household where resources are so limited they do not even have the supplies needed for school – let alone the parental support.

Resources will now be available in the schools so if a child needs a therapist appointment for counseling, it will take place at the school. Otherwise – in impoverished households, the appointment is simply missed if left to parents with limited resources (like transportation, etc.)

The role of the schools is being put back into the hands of the schools. It is shifting from such a regulatory approach to encourage innovation. So how do we get the schools on board? People like us have to step up and push the school system to take advantage of the new "barrier free" approach. Most are very reluctant and don't embrace the new found freedom. If they will only do so it will create a whole new learning environment. They can take the existing resources and make them work to

their favor. The high schools in Florence, AL have shifted to a virtual learning experience where students can take electives and career tech during the day and core subjects online at night. Yes. This disrupts the status quo but the fact is that most high school students excel with options like this. Their peak learning times are later in the day as opposed to early morning.

The key is to explore opportunities for the best options for the students. This will create a future for individual students like no other time in history.



## Announcements

- Rotarians! Change is good! Pick a new table each week to sit at and learn more about your fellow Rotarians!
- President Karen Baldwin read a thank you note from one of our scholarship recipients, Mimi Bock.
- Congratulations to Sara Barger on her induction in the Nursing Hall of Fame. You can read the full article by clicking on the link <http://uanews.ua.edu/2013/09/five-nursing-leaders-to-be-inducted-into-ua-sponsored-hall-of-fame-2>
- J.G. Brazil made Paul Harris Fellow presentations to Margaret O'Neal (wife of Larry O'Neal), designated to receive this buy he husband Larry O'Neal and Butch Grimes achieved Paul Harris level 5
- Please keep Nancy Jones and her family in your thoughts and prayers as she is recovering from a car accident.



### News from the RI Foundation:

END POLIO NOW –MAKE HISTORY TODAY is the 2013-2018 campaign partnering the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with Rotary International in the fight to eradicate polio. The Gates Foundation will match two-to-one, up to \$35 million per year, the money that Rotary commits to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. If the match is fully realized, the effort will generate more than \$500 million for the initiative's Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018. Rotary PolioPlus Committee Chair Robert S. Scott has said, "We're

working to ensure that the poliovirus will be found only in history books and not in children.” Contributions from our club’s Rotarians that are normally designated for the Annual Program-Share Fund may be specified for the PolioPlus Fund. Paul Harris credit is given, but not Every Rotarian, Every Year credit and not Sustaining Member credit. Please see our Foundation Committee Chair, J.G.Brazil, if you would like to make a contribution or would like additional information.



### **Thank you letter from Frank Deaver:**

Sincere thanks to Rotary and Rotarians for many expressions of concern and prayers during Dusti's terminal illness and at her death. Dusti was much more than a Rotary spouse. She had attended six International Conventions, was a Paul Harris Fellow, and truly lived a life of service. Thanks for flowers and plants, for visits, cards, letters, phone calls, and attendance at her Memorial Service. Rotary friendship is so meaningful, so supportive, and just now so appreciated! Frank Deaver and family



### **At the Head Table September 10<sup>rd</sup>**

**Sammy Watson** (Invocation), **James Leitner** (Pledge), **Patricia Parnell** (guest intro), **Sandra Ray** (speaker intro).



### **Guests at the September 10th meeting:**

**Norman Crow** (guest of Sandra Ray), President of DTA Freight; **Richard Rice** (guest of Steve Katsinas) ; **John Lollar** (guest of Larry O'Neal) Robertson Bank; Casey Deaker (Rotary House); **Margaret O'Neal** (guest of Larry O'Neal); **Peter Hlebawitz** (guest of Larry O'Neal), Dean, UA College of Education; **Leslie Musumecchi** (guest of Karis Lamb Wilson) Loan Officer, First Federal; **Jonathan Guin**, (guest of Cason Kirby) Attorney; **John Chapman** (guest of Scott McClanahan), Financial Advisor.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 24<sup>th</sup>  
Judge Mark Fuller

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October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Tom Greene  
District Governor

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October 8<sup>th</sup> David  
Platt & Archie  
Abrams with BCBS  
of Alabama

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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

## 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