

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

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This Week, September 24th, 2013 Judge Mark E. Fuller

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Mark E. Fuller is a native of Enterprise, Alabama, and a product of Enterprise public schools. He graduated from Enterprise High School in 1977 and attended the University of Alabama, receiving degrees in chemical engineering in 1982 and a law degree in 1985. Judge Fuller returned to Enterprise upon graduating from law school and was a partner in the firm of Cassady, Fuller and Marsh from 1985 through 1996. He served as district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial Circuit from 1997 through 2002. From 1989 through 1992, Judge Fuller also served as president, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Doss Aviation, Inc., a government contract services company with its home office in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2002, Mark Fuller was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama by President George W. Bush and assumed that position in December 2002. On May 18, 2004, Judge Fuller was elevated to Chief United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama and served in that capacity until May 17, 2011. Judge Fuller has distinguished himself academically as well as professionally being a member of the Bench & Bar Legal Honor Society, Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in American Business, and elected to Outstanding Young Men of America in 1989, the Alabama Law Foundation and a Chemical and Biological Engineering Fellow at the University of Alabama, and a member of Class 17 of Leadership Alabama.

Last Week, September 17, 2013

Dean Karr

Rotarian Jim McLean introduced Dean Chuck Karr of the Engineering College at the University of Alabama:

Dean Karr started off with a statement about the students enrolled in the Engineering Program at UA "These kids are as good as any Engineering students in any other College in the US." In the last eight years, students in the College have been recognized 11 times as USA Today All-USA College Academic Team members, four received Goldwater scholars, seven received Hollings scholars along with a Portz scholar and a Truman scholar and a Rhodes Scholar.

"So how do we have so many great students?" he asked. "We are recruiting better students." The College has grown from 1600 to 4100 in 7 years.

Freshman enrollment was 300 when he came on board one year later he had 500. This year he has 1300 freshmen! The College has a mean ACT of 28.5, with 38% of students with a 4.0 GPA and many with 30+ on ACT. There have been 97 National Merit Finalists – more than most schools altogether.

The program also offers a wide array of opportunities like Honors College for those with 3.3 or higher GPA. They are in smaller classes and our guaranteed the best instructors and coupled with the best students. In addition, the new dorms are outstanding! The 4th building has just been finished at the Shelby Quad.

100% of the students will participate in an enhanced learning experience such as internships, co-op programs, International programs, National Conferences, and Service organizations. So far 27K students have committed 1.4 million hours to service in the community. Many of the Engineering students are also involved in Art, Theater, Dance and Music. There is actually a Dinner Theater Group within the program!

There is a new foundry that is being used by several in the Art and Engineering programs as a partnership of sorts. The Art student can create something that looks good but does not work well, while the Engineering student can produce something that works great but looks awful. Together they are learning from each other at the foundry.

Young people are held accountable in this program for the gifts they have been given. They will rise to the level they are expected to so we must keep the bar

high. He told the story of "Jennifer" who applied to be a USA Today All USA and was not accepted as a sophomore and then again as a junior. When Dean Karr asked her if she was applying again as a senior, she said she was not because it was too much time and trouble and she wasn't going to make it anyway. He told her he would not sign her diploma and she would never graduate if she did not try again. He had faith in her – and she applied and made it!

Dean Karr said if we want the brightest and best in Alabama Industry for the future, the key is to recruit them to The University when they are 18. They live here and experience the culture and beauty of the state and buy into the State. It is a LOT easier than trying to recruit a 22 year old who has bought into the stereotype of our State and has a pre-conceived notion about it. Dean Karr said when he can no longer recruit with a clear conscious – he will quit.



Announcements:

- Brad Springer took a serious fall, but is now back at work.
- Fellow Rotarian Dick West passed away recently.
- Buddy Moman sent a nice note of thanks to the club.
- If you work at home on a Rotary project this can be counted as a make up – so please report this if you have time spent this way.
- **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPLORING AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FOR OUR CLUB?** If so, please contact David Pass at 205-242-6822 or at dpass@sealyrealty.com. David is forming an exploratory committee to look at multiple possibilities and would like all interested Rotarians to have the opportunity to participate. Current committee members include Nancy Brown, Mike Chambers and Chuck Turner. We are exploring possibilities for an international project that will bring to life Rotary's international mission for our Club and its members.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 1st
Tom Greene
District Governor

October 8th
David Platt &
Archie Abrams

“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



At the Head Table September 17th

Ray Farabee (Invocation), **Jim Page** (Pledge), **Chuck Turner** (guest intro), **Jim McLean** (speaker intro).

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.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES