

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ROTAGRAPH

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Editorial

The Physical Work Environment

How Does the Physical Work Environment Have an Impact on Your Business?

Gensler, a leading international architectural firm, conducted a “workplace survey” in 2008 which shows that the physical work environment is an asset with a specific impact on business success. The results showed that the top performing companies—those with higher profits, better employee engagement, and stronger market brand position—have significantly higher performing work environments than average companies.

So, how do we create a higher performing work environment which will increase business success? Gensler surveyed average performing companies and top performing companies, and the research revealed



Connie Blake

new measures of performance that made a difference in a “knowledge” economy—the power of people and place to drive profit. The day to day “knowledge” workplace activities that produce business success involve four work modes: Focus, Collaborate, Learn and Socialize. These work modes allow the creative and innovative power of people to be fully realized. Therefore, business success directly correlates with the effective support of these four work modes in the physical work environment.

Focus—research reveals that interruptions and distractions are among the biggest threats to worker concentration. People can have more productive focus if they are granted

distraction-free, protected time to get their individual work done. Open work environments help to foster interaction, but can also result in the acoustical and visual distractions that hamper people’s ability to focus. Therefore, it is important to balance focus with other work modes.

Collaboration—Top performing companies spend more time collaborating than average companies. Knowledge creation is an outcome of work environments that have more visibility, openness and greater worker mobility. Gone are the “Dilbert” cubicles of the past, and instead we are seeing lower height workstations, more color and more light penetration throughout the workspace. Collaborative areas must also support technology, with plenty of power and access to the internet.

Learn—Researchers have identified multiple ways by which adults learn. Therefore, there should be variations in the physical environment to support learning such as quiet spaces, collaborative learning spaces and

(continued on page 4)

Program

December 18, 2009

SPEAKER:

Holiday Harmonies

Chairman for the Day:

J.R. Labbe

FORT WORTH CLUB

Last Meeting



Rachel Vogel

While “A Pound of Prevention is Worth an Ounce of Cure” is always the best scenario, our guest “Last Friday” was Mr. William “Bill” Gimson, CEO of the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). Mr. Gimson shared with us that he brings 35 years of program and administrative experience with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, from where he recently retired as the Chief Operating Officer to CPRIT.

Currently, as CPRIT’s executive director, Mr. Gimson is responsible for working with the CPRIT Oversight Committee to create and implement a strategic vision designed to enable the Institute to make its mark in the fight against cancer. He is also charged with developing and managing a new team – a dream team – of scientific, executive and operational staff that will develop the processes for soliciting, awarding and monitor-

ing the performance of the very best prevention and research projects in the field.

Mr. Gimson and the CPRIT team are currently focusing on an impartial review process directed by top scientists from outside of Texas to distribute taxpayer dollars; funded projects will be innovative and critically important to the field; the entire research spectrum will be supported – basic, translational, clinical and prevention – with the goal of fundamental discoveries that can be put into practice; ten percent of all funding will be directed at innovative and unique prevention services to help Texans; and new, superb talent will be recruited to the state.

Other business for the day included special recognition for Years of Service to: *Earle Shields*, 44 years, *Jimmy Still* 38 years, *Gary Cumbie* 34 years, *Bobby Gigsby*, 28 years, and *Harry Brants* 26 years.

Elliot Goldman, gave the newscast, that included a “Special Thank You to Tiger Woods” for NOT attending The Colonial Golf Tournament after all, as his absence has hopefully “kept our women safe” from harms way.

Excitement is in the air as chatter has already begun regarding the Highly Regarded “Holiday Harmonies” event at this weeks meeting. Please be sure to arrive early for the Eggnog Reception – you will not want to miss this week’s festivities.

**You better watch out,
You better not try,
To sneak in too late
Next Friday, here’s why:**

It’s that time again, when we gather for the last Rotary meeting of the calendar year to celebrate what everyone needs during the holidays: Laughter. You won’t want to miss what has become a Rotary Club of Fort Worth tradition as some of our club’s less inhibited members present seasonally silly songs on topics ripped from the headlines. Think H1N1, Northwest Flight 188, Barack Obama, Sarah Palin, Rick Perry, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Tiger Woods, Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys.

Make plans now to join singers *Joane Baumer*, *Amy Bearden*, *Henry Borbolla*, *Tim Bruster*, *Carlo Capua*, *Wayne Carson*, *Gary Cumbie*, *Pat Dohoney*, *J.R. Labbe*, *Victor Mashburn*, *Mac McLain*, *Tim Plocica*, *Carl Smart*, *Kathryn Thompson*, *Mark Walker*, *Doug White*, *Neva Williams* and *Darren Woods* and pianist *Doug Briley* as they suspend the Four-Way Test for a good cause: Fun.

Bring your sense of humor Dec. 18 to the sixth annual Holiday Harmonies program. The eggnog reception will kick off the frivolity at 11:15 a.m.



ROTARIANS: Bob Jameson

ROTARIAN: Frank Tilley

ROTARIANS: Karen Anisman, Davis Babb, Bob Bolen, Valerie DeSantis, Brian Gutierrez, Brad Hancock, Liisa Lewis, Marilyn Tolbert

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First Readings

* Larry Autry:

- Proposed by *Bob Mitchell*
- Classification: Accounting Service--Regional Firm, Litigation Support
- Company: Whitley Penn & Associates

If no written objection is received in the Rotary office by next Friday, this proposal will be given second readings and voted on by the club.

Make-Up Attendance

Western Fort Worth — 12.08.09 — Clem Constantine

Fort Worth South — 10.20.09 — Kathryn Bryan
12.01.09 — Kathryn Bryan

Fort Worth SW — 12.03.09 — Ralph Mecklenburger

Ted Paup Dallas Uptown
Judith Carrier eClubOne
Erwin Whitney Crystal Serenity, Panama Canal



Ames E. Fender, was elected President of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, December 12, 2009.

Other officers elected: *Bo Soderbergh*, President-Elect, *Marilyn Ackmann* and *Dennis Shingleton*, Vice-Presidents, *Gleniece Robinson*, Secretary, *Phil Moroneso*, Treasurer and *Libby Watson*, Sergean-At-Arms.

Newley elected directors: *Steve Eason*, *Phil Moroneso*, *Jim Parr*, *Don Shisler* and *Libby Watson*.

Directors continuing on the board: *Marilyn Ackmann*, *Ames Fender*, *Paul Paine*, *Gleniece Robinson*, *Dennis Shingleton*, *Bo Soderbergh*, *Kathryn Thompson* and *Sid Johnston*

Directors retiring from the board June 30, 2009: *Mike Baylor*, *Cathy Neece-Brown*, *Barbara Lamsens*, *Tran Trong* and *Doug White*.

Next Week's Program

Happy Holidays!

No Meeting

December 25, 2009

January 1, 2010

No Make Up Necessary

Years of Service:

Earle Shields, 44 Years

Gary Cumbie, 34 Years

ROTARIANS: *Tom Fairchild, Gary Grant, Chris Kalish, Rick Kurz, Randy McGuffee, Scott Ransom, Bernie Rubin, Dennis Shingleton*

ROTARIAN: *Emil Friberg*

ROTARIAN: *Paige Hendricks*

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Editorial

(continued from page 1)

training spaces. These spaces also need to support technology, which is constantly changing and improving and becoming more cost effective.

Socialize- Researchers have concluded that “knowledge” success will be increasingly social and relational with work accomplished through informal networks more than organizational hierarchy. These social networks help organizations solve problems, learn, innovate, and adapt. They have been cited by researchers as an organizational advantage because of their capacity to produce new knowledge. Firms that develop a robust social infrastructure are likely to be more successful.

In conclusion, the adage of Mies van der Rohe, is so true-Form Follows Function. The physical design (form) of the workplace needs to support the various “knowledge” work modes (function) in order to have an impact on business success.

~Connie Blake,
GL Seaman & Company

Personals



Cathy Neece Brown and her husband Kevin welcomed their new baby boy, Braden Theodore Brown on December 2, 2009 at 11:40 p.m. Braden weighed in at 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 20 inches long.



ROTAGRAPH

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Kathryn Thompson	Tran Trong
Doug White	

ROTAGRAPH

Drew Martin Editor
Associate Editors

Robert Gleason Last Meeting
Paula Parrish Advertising
Betty Harvey Personals
Pat Dohoney New Members
Drew Martin Editorials



Brrrrr....

If you bring your coat with you to the meetings on Friday please don't forget to leave a business card in your pocket so that you go home with YOUR coat.



Please be considerate and remember to turn off your cell phones during our meetings.

Thank you!



The Rotary Office will be closed from December 21st until January 4th.

Happy Holidays!