

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ROTAGRAPH

Official Publication of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth, Texas

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October 23, 2009

Editorial

News Worth Reporting

When I read the Star-Telegram's comprehensive summary of the most recent census data I got really nervous. Here's why: with 79.6 percent of the state's population now lacking a high school education or equivalent, "Texas now ranks worst in the nation for people who lack a high school education."

This "worst-in-the-nation" report about high school drop-outs is reflected in declines in the numbers of college graduates nationwide. In an interview in last month's *Parade* J. Noah Brown, president of the Association of Community College Trustees, said that although ten years ago the United States led the world in the "highest percentage of adults with college degrees," most current information shows that "now we're tenth."

To help all of us who are con-



Tahita Fulkerson

cerned about all the bad educational news, I want to affirm that Tarrant County is working on many fronts to correct these grim reports.

Many community volunteers, organizations, and partnerships among entities focus to address the problems. Our Club can be proud of its many educational initiatives, ranging from the STARS program to the Tarrant Literacy Coalition, borne of our Corporate Spelling Bee and led by *J.R. Labbe* and *Kathryn Thompson*.

Educational institutions are stepping up, too, as we rightfully expect and demand. To counter a double-digit drop-out rate in its high schools, the FWISD has adopted a number of important initiatives, including high

school redesign and an emphasis on dual credit. Improved outcomes at all levels are being reported.

Tarrant County College, now the sixth largest institution of higher education in the state, reported fall 2009 enrollments of 44,355, up twelve percent from just a year ago. Granted, the College has suffered some bad news of its own recently, but those enrollment numbers show that many citizens endorse the College's educational opportunities.

Early high school enrollments are good examples. With full endorsement and varying levels of financial support by the county's independent school districts, more than 12,000 high school students are currently attending TCC classes while they are still in high school. These students are on track to graduate from high school with both a diploma and a college transcript, many with their first college semester's work completed.

The partnerships between the ISDs and the College are dedicated to overcoming that worst-in-the-nation story.

(Continued on Page 3)

Program

October 23, 2009

SPEAKER:

Ramona Bass,
Fort Worth Zoo

FORT WORTH CLUB

Chairman for the Day:
Dan Earl Duggan

NEWSCAST: *Tom Wright*

Last Meeting



Mary Kathryn Anderson

Ted Cruz gave a very entertaining and informative talk at last week's meeting. After the introduction by Elliot Goldman citing some of Ted's many achievements as being the "youngest" or the "first Hispanic" in that position, Ted commented that one observation that could be made about him is that he has trouble holding a job!

He was appointed the Solicitor General for the State of Texas by Attorney General Greg Abbott in 2003. Now that his mentor, AG Abbott, is pursuing a higher office, Ted has decided to run for the AG position. So far, he is the only candidate in the Republican primary.

He said that in his five years as Solicitor General he was very proud to represent Texas on the national stage. He said the U.S. values liberty and opportunity above all else and values individual freedom in a way that no other nation does. Texas, according to Ted, is America on steroids when it comes to valuing our

individual freedom. He cited several cases in which he represented Texas before the Supreme Court and won, including one involving the right to keep and bear arms and one involving the sovereignty of US courts.

He said that he has three very strong connections to Rotary. His wife was a Rotary scholar to Belgium. He was the winner four years in a row for the Rotary Free Enterprise Group for high school students. Part of the prize included speaking engagements to Rotary groups in the state. He spoke to 80 groups, including our own. He then spoke of his father's involvement with Rotary. His father was born in Cuba and began fighting with Castro at age 14. At age 17 he was caught by Batista's men, imprisoned and tortured. Ted's grandfather was able to bribe his son's way out of prison and send him to Texas where he landed in Austin and was able to enroll in UT. He worked his way through UT washing dishes six days a week but continued his fight for Cuba's freedom under Castro. In 1958 he spoke to several Rotary groups on behalf of Cuba and Castro and sent donations back to Castro. When Castro declared himself a Communist, Ted's father went back to all of these same Rotary groups and apologized for his previous misguided talks.

One of our Rotary members asked Ted about the recent hoopla concern-

ing Texas seceding from the Union. Was he for or against this? Ted smiled and quickly replied "No!"

The singing of our national anthem was accompanied by *Harriet Harral* on the piano. *Matt Graves* introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests and President *Sid Johnston* presented the gold putter to the Long Distance Rotarian from Nederland, Texas. *Fernando Costa* entertained us with a very enlightening newscast and *Kathryn Thompson* gave a first reading for a proposed member sponsored by *Tim Plocica*.

~ Mary Kathryn Anderson
Tarrant Area Food Bank

Next Week's Program

Friday, October 30, 2009

SPEAKER:
Jim O'Neill

Clarium Capital Management
Topic: Health Care Reform

Chairman of the Day:
Elliot Goldman

ROTARIAN: Lee Patterson

ROTARIAN: Paul Paine

ROTARIANS: Michael Berkowitz, Tom Law Jr.

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Friday's Speaker



Ramona Bass

Ramona Seeligson Bass was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. A lifelong resident of Texas, she has lived in Fort Worth for the last 25 years with her husband, Lee Marshall Bass, and their three children.

Her wildlife conservation work is extensive, and in 2003, Mrs. Bass was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to serve on the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission. Along with her husband Lee, she has been involved in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan efforts to save the critically endangered black rhinoceros.

She has served as Co-Chairman of the Fort Worth Zoo's Board of Directors for 17 years, and has led its award-winning efforts. With her passionate commitment to the Zoo, she has led the 100-year-old attraction through privatization and a long list of advances resulting in the Zoo's recognition as one of the top zoos in the country. Notably, the Fort Worth

Zoo was recognized as the #1 attraction is the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex by *Zagat Survey U.S. Family Travel Guide*.

Eight years ago, she spearheaded the Zoo's opening of *Texas Wild!* an 8-acre exhibit featuring animals and flora all native to the Lone Star State. *Texas Wild!* has garnered national attention and catapulted the Zoo to the forefront of cutting-edge conservation, education and design. Following in the footsteps of this extraordinary exhibit, Bass is leading efforts to open the Zoo's newest milestone: the *Museum of Living Art (MOLA)*. With arguably the best reptile collection of any Herpetarium in the United States, MOLA will house more than 300 species of amphibians and reptiles such as a king cobra, Aldabra tortoises and Panamanian golden frogs, all in a modern architectural setting. In addition to these unique creatures, the 30,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor exhibit will include beautiful mammals and birds such as golden lion tamarins, ring tail lemurs and scarlet ibis. MOLA is scheduled to open at the Fort Worth Zoo in early 2010.

Editorial

(continued from page 1)

Even more, the students are enrolled in primarily university-parallel courses, for which the tuition is just \$50 a semester hour. You read that right--\$50 a semester hour.

Citizens of all ages in Tarrant county have access to education at a fully accredited neighborhood college *without* admission fees, technology fees, building fees, and parking fees. And the bottom line? \$150 for a typical three-semester-hour course! That's some news worth reporting.

~Tahita Fulkerson
TCCD

Make-Up Attendance

Fort Worth East — 10.12.09 — Emil Friberg

Western Fort Worth — 10.13.09 — Clem Constantine
Wilton Hammond
Harry Knudsen

Fort Worth South — 10.13.09 — Larry Mundt

Robert Gill Damariscotta-Newcastle, Maine
Judith Carrier.....Arlington
Eric Keller.....Mid Cities Pacesetters

ROTARIAN: Jim Austin



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Welkom

BURNS, JOEL C.



"Joel" February 4
Real Estate - Residential
 Virginia Cook Realtors
 2900 S. Hulen St., Ste. 10
 76109 817-737-8587
 817-231-0132
joel@joelburns.com
 2420 S. Adams St.
 76110 Phone: 817-536-5635
 Fort Worth South
 J.D. Angle 2009

Joel is the owner of Joel Burns Results Team @ Virginia Cook Realtors. He was also born in Fort Worth and graduated from Texas Wesleyan. Joel serves on the Fort Worth City Council as well as serving on the board of Fort Worth South. He is a former member of Tarrant County Housing Partnership.

FITZGERALD, WILLIAM T.



"William" January 28
Law Practice - General Practice
 Law Offices of William T. Fitzgerald
 1200 West Magnolia Ave. #100
 76104 817-806-4501
 817-546-6219
william@williamfitzgerald.com
 6236 Genoa Road
 76116 817-735-9662
 Karen 2009

William is a shareholder of the Law Offices of William T. Fitzgerald, P.C. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1986. He is very active in the community and volunteers with numerous organizations, including The United Way, Boy & Girls Club, Camp Fire and the American Heart Association.

KENNEDY, DIONE



"Dione" October 13
Fine Arts - Performing Arts
 Performing Arts Fort Worth, Inc.
 330 East 4th St., Ste. 300
 76102 817-212-4300
 817-336-4804
dkennedy@basshall.com
 Dayton, Ohio
 Daniel Hagwood 2009

Dione is the President/CEO for the Performing Arts Fort Worth, Inc. She previously held the same position for 18 years at the Victoria Theatre Association in Dayton Ohio. She received her degree in Communication Arts at the University of Cincinnati. Dione previously belonged to the Dayton, Ohio Rotary Club.

KLOCEK, CAROL H.





"Carol" April 26
Associations - YWCA
 YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County
 512 W. 4th St.
 76102 817-332-6191
 817-332-6172
cklocek@ywcafortworth.org
 430 Angus Road
 Waxahachie 75167 817-456-7399
 John 2009

Carol is the Executive Director of the YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County. She attended St. Mary's College, UTA and TCU where she received degrees in Philosophy, a Masters in Social Work and an EMBA. She serves on the boards of the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition and the Infant Mortality Network, and is involved in the United Way Kids Impact Council.

Celebrate Halloween at Rotary!


In keeping with the spirit of Halloween we are encouraging Rotarians to attend the Friday, October 30th luncheon in full Halloween costume attire! So put your best freakish foot forward and enjoy a Friday of special fun with Rotary!



GRAND PRIZE

One night stay at the
Worthington



MOSMAN, JEROME H.

"Jerry" December 31



Associations - Senior Citizen Services

Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County
1400 Circle Drive #300
76119 817-413-4949
817-413-4908
jmosman@scstc.org

7616 Ripple Creek Court
76120 817-496-4325

Arlington North Cheryl 2009

Jerry is the Executive Director of the Senior Citizen Services of Greater Tarrant County. He attended the University of Dallas and U.T. Arlington where he received his BA in Humanities (1968), his Master in Theology (1972) and his MPA (1993). He is also a member of Tarrant Area Gerontological Society. *Jerry* was formerly a member of the Arlington North Rotary club where he held the office of Community Service Officer.



A Break in Tradition....

You might notice a break in tradition the next time you come to a Rotary event. With the fear of a potential flu outbreak some people are washing their hands of tradition in favor of flu prevention.

Some want to continue the tradition, so we have put antibacterial liquid out at the Friday luncheons.

First Readings

- * David Lamkin:
- Proposed by *Tim Plocica*
- Classification: Institutions and Hospitals - Hospitals, Children's
- Company: Cook Children's

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.

Years of Service:

Bob Bolen, 27 Years

RAY, JOHN M.

"John" October 31



Government - County Government, Sheriff

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
200 Taylor St., 7th Floor
76102 817-884-2187
jmray@tarrantcounty.com

1699 Wood Place
Longview, 75601 903-746-3747

Longview Downtown Julie White 2009

John is the Executive Chief Deputy with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office. He was formerly the Assistant Police Chief with the Longview Police Department, and was a Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. He is the President for the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration Alumni Association. *John* was also an Adjunct Professor of philosophy at U.T. Tyler and is involved with Habitat for Humanity.

VOGEL, RACHEL R.

"Rachel" July 14



Construction Service - General Contracting Commercial, Large

Linbeck Group, LLC
201 Main St., Ste. 1801
76102 817-348-7727
817-332-9722
rvogel@linbeck.com

1205 Sweetwater Lane
Flower Mound, 75028
972-880-1233

2009

Rachel is the National Director of Business Development & Marketing with the Linbeck Group, LLC. She attended the American College of Business in Des Moines, Iowa where she received her AA in 1988 and will receive her BA in December 2010 in Business Administration. She is the president of the Fort Worth chapter of the SMPS and serves on the Board of CoreNet Global (SW Chapter).

WILEY, ANN B.

"Ann" July 25



Mineral Oil Industry - Oil & Gas Exploration Producing

Encore Acquisition Company
777 Main St., Ste. 1400
76102 817-339-0843
817-877-1655
awiley@encoreacq.com

6708 Brants Lane
76116 817-738-8984

Wade 2009

Ann is a regulatory manager with Encore Acquisition Company. She received her B.S. in Business Communication from the University of Oklahoma. She belongs to the Fort Worth Wildcatters, The Rivercrest Country Club, the Petroleum Club and The Assembly.

Personals



Wayne Carson is receiving the “Distinguished Alumni” award from UTA. He did call to verify that they did not mean “extinguished” alumni, and it was confirmed that he still has a few good years left. Mary and *Rush Vann* traveled to Spain to cheer for their son, Rush Vann III, as he and a friend swam the Strait of Gibraltar, raising \$ 95,000 for wounded veterans. “Coalition to Salute America’s Heroes” caught the eye of Diane Sawyer, and they were featured on *Good Morning America*. The thirteen-mile swim took approximately 5 hours. *Brandon Chase* has fulfilled the experience, education and testing requirements for certification by the Institute of Divorce Financial Analysts as a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst. This designation, coupled with being a Certified Financial Planner, allows him to counsel someone going through a divorce and their attorney about the financial aspects of their divorce settlement. Bob and *Susan Morgan* recently traveled to San Antonio to help Paesano’s Restaurant celebrate its 40th anniversary. *Susan* and Bob have been enjoying wonderful meals there for 38 of its 40 years. *Jerry Sawyer* was in Portland for son Justin’s wedding – held in a local vineyard. Then off to New York and then Italy where the bride and groom honeymooned. *Bill Thornton* discovered that he might be as smart as a 5th grader. Dr. Melody Johnson spoke at the Chamber’s State of Education luncheon and challenged the business attendees to answer four actual TAKS science and math questions. Whew! *Bill* passed.

ROTAGRAPH

ROTARY CLUB OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS

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