



Rotaract Review

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

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September 2006

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Get the Facts on “Ready 2 Read”

Goal:

The “Ready 2 Read” Second Grade Reading Initiative will improve local literacy by ensuring that every second grade classroom in the Birmingham City School System has a high-quality and visually appealing reading center or “library;” complete with leveled non-fiction books and book-sets covering a range of curriculum-based topics.

In several states, second grade reading levels are used to predict future workforce readiness, higher education, and prison capacity.

Studies show that when books are placed in close proximity to classroom activity, time spent reading increases by as much as 60%.

The Hope:

We hope to broaden the long-term prospects of Birmingham’s school-children by effectively supporting our second grade teachers and their efforts to improve local literacy. Furthermore, we hope to foster a strong and lasting relationship with local educators so we may better understand and continue to address the educational needs of our community.

The Reason:

Statistics demonstrate that reading readiness by the end of second grade is a key determinant of future academic success. In other words, if a child is not reading at the appropriate grade-level prior to entering third grade, chances are the child will never catch up to his or her peers.

We are pleased to welcome the following new member:

Joanna Kuhn

Rotaract Vision

To be the premier civic club whose members, alumni, and sponsors responsibly lead the organizations that comprise a world-class community.

Rotaract Mission

To responsibly pursue the wisdom and experience necessary to improve the quality of life of our community’s citizens.

Future Speakers

Luncheon schedule

September 5

Erik Jambor

Executive Director of Alabama Moving Image Assoc. and Director/ Co-Founder of Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival

September 19

Dean John L. Blackburn

Dean of Students at the University of Alabama during UA's integration of the student body

October 3

Dr. Stan L. Mims

Superintendent of the Birmingham City School System

October 17

Dr. Carol Garrison

UAB President

November 7

Max Cooper

Largest McDonald's Franchisee and Broadway Producer

November 21

W. Michael Warren, Jr.

Energex Corporation Chairman of the Board and CEO

September 19th Speaker

Dr. John Blackburn



Dr. John L. Blackburn began his long association with higher education after serving in Indo-China during World War II. First, he served as an instructor in the United States Air Force; then at Florida State University in 1951 and 1952, where he experienced the first of a series of events which placed him on the cutting edge of innovative change in higher education in the United States. As an administrator at Florida State University, one of his tasks was to assist in integrating male students into the previous Florida State College for Women.

In 1968, the men's and women's student affairs functions were consolidated and Dr. Blackburn was named Dean of Students and the Office of Student Affairs assumed a much larger and more important role in the life of the University.

An educational consultant at present and as past general secretary of the American Association of University Administrators, Dr. Blackburn finds himself more interested in effective innovation in higher education.

Retired from UA after more than 30 years of dedicated service, he still remains vitally interested in the continued healthy development of the Capstone.

Dr. Blackburn remains active in the civic affairs of the city and state and recently served as the Interim Chairman of Challenge 21.

Membership Spotlight on Martin Cabrera

Name:

Martin Cabrera

Company:

Alabama Gas Corporation

Hometown:

Birmingham, AL



Describe your typical work day:

As the Supervisor of Third Party Engineering, I coordinate various projects for the relocation of our underground facilities designed by one of our contracted third party engineering firms. I am also the liaison for all governmental officials for the Birmingham Division, so I am in constant contact with state, county and city officials regarding various projects that create conflicts with our facilities.

How did you come to join Rotaract?

I heard about Rotaract through Cara Sweeney and I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to not only network with people my age, but also get involved in the community.

What has been the most memorable moment during your time with Rotaract?

I would have to say the day that we went out to the Habitat for Humanity house that we helped build. Maibeth Dees did a great job getting a group together. Although I am not the biggest fan of painting, I enjoy working on construction jobs, and it is such a good feeling when it is for a great cause.

We understand you recently completed a triathlon. Tell us a little about that.

On August 27th, I completed the Accenture Chicago Triathlon. This is an olympic triathlon which

consists of a 1.5km swim, followed by a 40km bike and finishing with a 10km run. This is roughly 32 miles in total.

What was your motivation in participating?

I have always wanted to compete in a triathlon, but then one of the managers at my office is one the board of directors with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She told me about Team in Training and I was hooked. Team in Training is an organization that helps anybody complete marathons, half-marathons and triathlons to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. My patient honoree, for whom I completed the triathlon, is a 2 year-old boy named Jon McGough. He has ALL Infant Leukemia at the Birmingham Children's Hospital. You can see his pictures and still make donations at my website: <http://www.active.com/donate/tntagc/tntagcMCabrer>

What was the biggest challenge in completing your training and the actual race?

I am not a morning person and all the training and the race itself is really early in the morning. The most challenging part of the race was definitely the last 3.2 miles of the run. After swimming and biking for roughly 26 miles, my body was definitely feeling exhausted.

Do you have any advice for potential tri-athletes?

Train, train, train! It is a lifestyle to train for an event like this one. I would also say that if you want to do one, sign up. Even if you are not ready, register and it will make you get ready. I strongly recommend competing with Team in Training! It was a wonderful experience! .

Social Event: September 27th Vulcan Social with Junior Patrons

The September social event will be hosted jointly with the Junior Patrons of the Birmingham Art Museum. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 27th, from 6-9 pm. Rotaract Members will be able to enjoy food, drinks and live music, as well as tour the Vulcan Park museum and the observatory tower in Vulcan. The cost of this event will be \$10 per person, which includes light appetizers, drink tickets, live music and a pass to the museum and observatory tower. For more information about this event, please contact V.J. Graffeo, at vjg@hsv.com or 254-1447.



Professional Development Series Upcoming Event - Mark your Calendars!

Date: September 13th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: T.B.A.

Rotaract its members (only) a chance to enhance their personal and professional well-beings with the "Principles of Personal and Professional Development" lecture series. This series began last year and has covered topics including Leadership, Investing information, Leadership skills and Team building. These events will be geared toward young, aspiring adults, who have the desire to improve their skills used and well seasoned professional who will bring a value added presentation related to that month's topic of discussion.

Rucker House Recap Held August 21, 2006



About forty Rotaractors and guests gathered Thursday, August 17, 2006 at the Historic Rucker Place for the August Social event. A new member orientation was held during the event to assist our new members in learning about the club and how to get involved. Members and guests listed to live jazz music in the garden and enjoyed drinks and appetizers. Everyone in attendance was impressed by the unique atmosphere and facilities provided by the Historic Rucker Place. The Historic Rucker Place was built in 1900 by Civil War General Edmund Winchester Rucker as a wedding gift for his daughter. Over the years, the house has served as a residence and housed professional offices. Several years ago, the current owners renovated the house and use it for private gatherings.

Rotaract Club of Birmingham Board of Directors

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This months topic: Entrepreneurship

This month the speaker will be Dr. Louis Marino, who is an Associate Professor of Strategic Management and Frank Mason C&BA Faculty Fellow in Family Business. Professor Marino is a member of the Academy of Management and the Strategic Management Society. His research has been presented at both national and international meetings and has been published in the *Journal of Managerial Finance*. He is the co-author of a teaching manual in entrepreneurship and received various teaching awards while at Indiana University.

Happy
Birthday
to our
September
Birthdays



Maibeth Deas - 8th
Chris Frohock - 11th
Emily Duff - 12th
V.J. Graffeo - 16th
Grant Lauderdale - 16th
Bentley Sloan - 17th
Caroline Williams - 18th

Salvation Army Service Event August 23, 2006

