

# ROTARYgrams

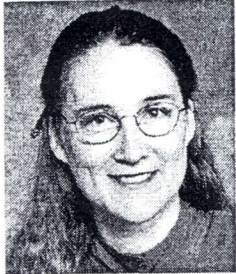
A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas

Vol. 92 No. 5 July 31, 2002

## Program 7/31

## Program Review

### GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TEAM MEMBER



**Jana Wright, MD** will share her experiences as a Group Study Exchange team member. Dr. Wright spent a month in Venezuela earlier this year representing our area of District 5910.

Upon returning to Beaumont, Dr. Wright completed her residency as a Family Practice physician at St. Elizabeth Hospital in June, 2002 and will join Dr. Joseph Finley's practice next month.

Born in Rantoul, Illinois, she is an "Air Force brat" who lived throughout the United States and in Nicaragua. She received a Bachelor's degree in nursing in Colorado, then graduated from medical school in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dr. Wright and her son share their home with three dogs, a cat and a cockatiel. She enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, bird watching, camping and canoeing. Favorite indoor activities include sitting by the fire in the winter, working on puzzles and reading historical fiction. Her free time is spent at church, in the garden or with her family.

**Vesta Brandt**, General Manager of Clear Channel Communications, introduced Roger Newton, the new manager for the Southeast Texas Entertainment Complex, as the speaker this past week. Roger became involved in the project when his company (SMG) was awarded the contract to run the entertainment complex. SMG is the world's largest manager of public facilities. They manage venues such as Reliant Stadium, the Compaq Center and the Superdome.

The entertainment complex will have many attractions. They include an RV Park, Skateboard Park, Water Park, Baseball/Softball fields, and a Hockey team. There will also be an Amphitheater that will have 6,000 covered seats and 9,000 lawn seats and an Arena/Exhibit hall that will have 85,000 square feet under roof.

Roger has an ambitious plan to attract customers from all over southeast Texas. He hopes to lure the musical acts that are already performing in Houston to our facility. Those musical acts, combined with the Hockey team and the rodeo should provide a significant economic boost to our community. The entertainment complex will also provide a wonderful place for the residents in our area to go and have a great time.

## Ramblings

**Bill Benning** will be the first to admit that his house has gone to the dogs. Beautiful wife, Mary Jane, has taken on the Humane Society as her latest passion. **Bill** has gone home to find more than one puppy in his backyard that needed a home. If you can provide "foster care" for one of the thousands of animals that find their way to the Shelter each year, please call 833-0504.

**Barbara Knight** was sighted with a flying pig as she celebrated the commencement of the actual restoration of the Jefferson Theatre. More than 5 years ago, the dream of restoring the Theatre began and one "doubting Thomas" said the Theatre would be restored "when pigs fly." It has taken almost 5 years to raise the money and obtain approvals of the Texas

Historical Commission, but the pigs are flying and the restoration of the Jefferson Theatre is well underway. **J. Earl Brickhouse, Carolyn Howard, Richard Funchess, Lulu Smith** and **Barbara Knight** are among the many Rotarians at the forefront of making the dream a reality for Southeast Texas.

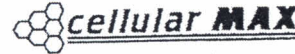

While **Bill Benning** is saving the dogs, **Jeff Beaver** was spreading the news that the Big Bird Cage is 98% complete. All it needs is some cosmetic dressing up by the Rotarians and the injured hawks will begin to occupy their new home. **Jeff** is wisely waiting until it gets a little cooler to send out a work crew!

**President Harland** has introduced yet another new program for Rotarians to enjoy in the form of monthly

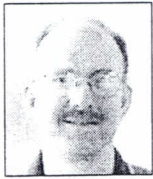
"socials" for new members to visit in the homes of the Old-timers. Each Board member has been asked to host an event during the year and the first one is being held on Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> in Old-timer **Lois Ann Stanton's** home. The **Broussard Brothers** will be in attendance to tell everyone stories of the good ol' days and teach the men the secret handshake.

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**Eric Lawrence, President**  
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1419 S. Hwy 69 Nederland 722-2200

## New Members



**Michael Cain**  
Plant Manager  
Equistar Chemicals, LP



**Donna Ferchak**  
President & CEO  
Fairway Management  
& Rentals



**Tim Gaddis**  
Business Banker  
Wells Fargo Bank



**Ryan Harkey**  
Manager  
Pollans & Cohen, P.C.



**Catherine Long**  
Branch Claims Manager  
Crawford & Company



**Harvey Warren III**  
Attorney At Law



**Stephanie Williams**  
Tax Manager  
Pollans & Cohen, P.C.

## Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Tuesday, July 16th and accepted the following resignations with regret:

**Richmond O. Bennett III**  
**Charles Thompson**

## Birthdays



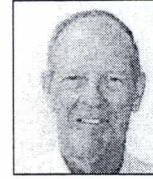
**2 - Jack Schenck**, a member since 1995, is retired from Gulf States Utilities. Born in Morgantown, West Virginia, he is a graduate of Michigan State and New York Universities. He and his wife Rita have one son, Erik. Jack's hobbies include skiing, scuba diving and foreign languages.



**3 - Jack Turner**, a member since 1968, is a retired independent consultant. Born in Crockett, he is a graduate of Lon Morris College. He and his wife Margaret have one daughter, Cynthia. Jack's hobbies include memorizing quotations and playing bridge. Jack is a Paul Harris Fellow.



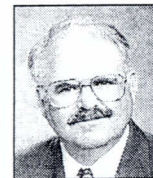
**3 - Karen Weller**, a new member since April, is Vice President of Group Sales for Talon Insurance Agency. A Beaumont native and Lamar graduate, Karen has three children, Emily, Todd and Kyndale. She attends St. Mark's Episcopal Church and enjoys playing tennis and golf.



**5 - Buzz Kiker**, a member since 1995, is General Manager of Bill Clark Pest Control. Born in Fannett and a Lamar graduate, Buzz and his wife Dorothy are the parents of Diane, Bill, Laura and Robert. Buzz enjoys golf, fishing, hunting, raising beef cattle and, most of all, his grandchildren.



**7 - Shiv Bagri**, a member since 1992, is Associate Branch Manager for Met Life. Born in India, he has a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He and his wife Kashi have two daughters. Shiv enjoys playing bridge, tennis and ping pong, and traveling.



**7 - Terry Whiddon**, a member since 1993, is a Shareholder in Fun-chess, Mills, White & Co. A Beaumont native and Lamar graduate, he and his wife Linda are the parents of Ginger and Will and attend North End Baptist Church. Terry enjoys fishing, hunting and playing golf.

## Editor's Corner

**PolioPlus-** In 1985, Rotary International committed to immunize the world's children against polio, with a target date of a polio-free world by 2005, Rotary's centennial year. Banding together with other foundations and organizations, Rotary plans to eradicate polio in the 10 countries where it still exists.

Our club is conducting a survey of how polio has affected its members. Please notify **Alexine** if you, a family member or a friend is a polio survivor.

**30 Somethings-** **Robert Edgar**, Chair, announces the next breakfast meeting will be hosted by **Emily**

**Compton** at Goodwill Industries, 460 Wall Street, Beaumont (838-9911) on Tuesday, August 6 from 7:30 to 8:30 am. Please plan to attend.

**Rotary Pre-Meeting Mixer-** **Gerald Condon**, Chair, invites all Rotarians to attend a new function to be held prior to the second meeting of every month beginning at 11:30 in the fountain area of the Hilton. This new fellowship opportunity will be hosted **Azim Keramati** in August with light snacks and beverages.

If you and your firm are interested in hosting future Pre-Meeting Mixers, please contact **Gerald** at 842-2324.

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