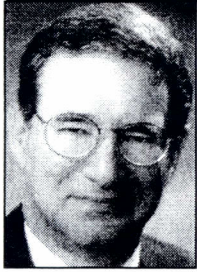


ROTARYgrams

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas

Vol. 92 No. 12 September 18, 2002

Program 9/18



Honorary Rotarian **Jimmy Simmons** will be this week's speaker. A veteran educator, he took office September 1, 1999, as Lamar University's 10th president, bringing a wealth of perspective on South-east Texas and Lamar to the position.

Response to Simmons' appointment has been enthusiastic - from his native Beaumont throughout the region and from colleagues and former students across the country. Simmons became the first Southeast Texas-born Lamar president. He is "the perfect man at the perfect time for this community" in the words of one Lamar supporter.

A 31-year veteran of the faculty and leadership team at Lamar, Simmons has served as Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication since 1992. In 1996, he began serving concurrently as interim Executive Director of University Advancement. During the three years he served as Director of Advancement, he helped raise more than \$8 million in private support for the University while expanding publications and public and media relations efforts.

Jimmy Simmons is known as an administrator with a strong sense of direction and the keen ability to attract and cultivate talented faculty - who, he stresses, are professionals who teach rather than professional teachers. His innovative approaches to the pursuit of

academic excellence and his winning rapport with students, faculty and staff are other defining qualities.

"He expects nothing but the best from everyone he's associated with, but, in turn, he gives nothing but the best in everything he does," said one colleague.

Simmons and his wife, Susan, have a daughter, twin sons and two granddaughters.

Throughout his educational career, Simmons has attracted acclaim as a performer on clarinet, saxophone and piano. His Jimmy Simmons Orchestra and various jazz ensembles are frequently in the spotlight at special events.

Program Review

Mixing humor and tears, four local Red Cross volunteers who spent time helping survivors of the World Trade Center attacks shared their thoughts with us last Wednesday.

Jason Sellers, who heads the Red Cross office here, introduced Sharon Jolly and Bertha Desormeaux, who worked at Pier 94 in New York City, and Judy Melling and John E. Bergeron, who worked in New Jersey.

Judy pointed out that more residents of New Jersey were killed than residents of New York. On her days off, Sunday, she would go into "the City" and visit Ground Zero, which she said is truly "hallowed ground".

Sharon said that she worked with many people whose spouse, child or parent had been killed. She said the Red Cross workers were debriefed

after each meeting with a client because "we had to unload the emotional baggage" or it would have been overwhelming.

Bertha mentioned that she dealt with people paying rent of \$465 a month and with one victim whose mortgage payment was \$3,500 a month.

John E. (a lovely woman who pronounces her name as if it were Johnnie) worked the 3 PM to 11 PM shift where 600 phones had been set up as emergency hot lines. They helped people locate loved ones who were lost, dealt with inquiries from overseas and even helped one sick man get medical help.

Our program started in the Memorial Garden area of the Garden Center with a concert of patriotic songs sung by the Harmony Exporters. We then

moved inside for more singing before the Red Cross volunteers shared their memories.

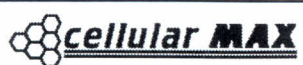
Ironically, the scheduled speaker, Roger Ince, a State Disaster Specialist working for the Red Cross in Houston, was unable to make the meeting. Usually, that is the #1 nightmare of our club president and the program chairman. This time, thanks to the brave women who volunteered when our nation needed help, it allowed us to have a wonderful program and the perfect one for September 11, 2002.

Thanks to twice-Past District Governor **Alex Broussard** for arranging for us to meet in the Beaumont Garden Center, to the Harmony Exporters for lifting our spirits and to the Red Cross volunteers for doing what they do.



Kitchen Concepts
Everything for the perfect kitchen
Marvin and Connie
Dunnam
4338 Dowlen Rd. Beaumont, Texas
409/899-8668

Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
LLP
Certified Public Accountants
3120 Fannin • Beaumont, Texas 77701-3994
409/838-1605 Fax 409/838-3316



cellular MAX
verizon wireless
Authorized Agent
Eric Lawrence, President
11 N. Eleventh Beaumont 838-2245
1419 S. Hwy 69 Nederland 722-2200



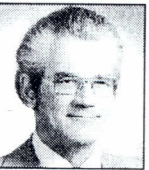
Birthdays



19 - Beverly Hatcher (90)
President of the Golden Triangle Minority Business Council. Born in Wellington, Kansas, she is a graduate of Wichita State University. Beverly and her husband Stanley are the parents of Breck, LaTye and James, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. She enjoys reading, travel and watching the news.



20 - Donna Ferchak (02)
President/CEO of Fairway Management & Rentals. Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, she is currently studying at Lamar Institute. Donna and her husband Richard are the parents of Ashlyn, Ralph, Haylee, Dick and Amy. She enjoys playing golf, cross stitching, reading and travel.



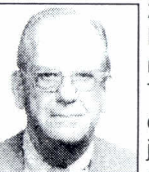
20 - Jerry Johnson (55) Retired Ophthalmologist. Born in Dallas, he is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Medicine. Jerry and his wife Suzanne are the parents of Sydney, Ann, Amy and **Jamie**, and are members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Jerry is a Paul Harris Fellow.



22 - Phil Hurley (02) Vice President & General Manager of NBC 4 KBTB. Born in Paris, Texas, he and his wife Jenise are the parents of Cory and Heather. Phil enjoys playing golf and tennis, and skiing.



22 - Wilton White (79) President and CEO of SouthTrust Bank. Born in Corpus Christi, he is a graduate of Southwestern, Lamar, University of Indiana and Rutgers University Graduate School of Banking. Wilton and his wife Barbara are the parents of Kristi, and are members of First United Methodist Church. He enjoys hunting and playing golf. Wilton is a Paul Harris Fellow.



23 - Gator Dollinger (47) Retired Engineer. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas A & M. He is the father of **Ken** and Patricia, and enjoys growing roses, is a Consultant Rosarian and a Rose Judge. Gator is a Paul Harris Fellow.



24 - Dohn LaBiche (87)
Owner of The LaBiche Architectural Group. Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Louisiana State University. He and his wife Angie are the parents of Drew and Angie, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. Dohn enjoys hunting and fishing.



24 - Thomas Mayo (02)
Attorney with Mehaffy & Weber. Born in Baytown, he is a graduate of Southwestern and South Texas College of Law. He and his wife Amy are the parents of Caroline Elizabeth, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. Thomas enjoys hunting and travel.



24 - Russ Waddill (01)
Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at Lamar. Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of Texas Christian University and Rice University. He and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of Thomas and Sarah, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. Russ enjoys playing golf and the guitar, and mountain sports.



25 - Jerry Nathan (68)
Of Counsel with Benckenstein, Norvell & Nathan. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of the University of Texas and its School of Law. He and his wife Iris are the parents of **Allison** and Irl, and are members of Temple Emanuel. He enjoys playing golf and tennis. Jerry is a Paul Harris Fellow.



25 - Hubert Oxford III (88)
Partner with Benckenstein & Oxford. A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas A & M and the University of Texas School of Law. He and his wife Cindy are the parents of Fran-ny, Hubert, Mary and Ginny, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. Hubert enjoys travel and languages.

Please notify the Rotary Office of changes in your life. The data in the birthday bios comes from your information sheet.



25 - Joy Reagan (88)
Retired Administrator of Buckner Children's Village. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, she is a graduate of Lamar and Sam Houston State University. She is the mother of Cyndy and Eric, and is a member of Calder Baptist Church. Joy enjoys speaking and writing, and participating in life enrichment workshops.

Rotary Goes to Work

On October 16th, you have a choice of attending your Rotary Club meeting at any of 15 locations.

We will have sign-up sheets at each meeting from September 18th until October 9th. If you do not sign up, there will be no food for you. You will not be assigned to a spot unless you choose it.

We expect City Hall, Blue Bell Creameries and Cowboy Harley Davidson to be popular choices, but all 15 of our hosts and hostesses will strive to please you.

Last year (no promises for this year), **Marvin Dunnam** at Kitchen Concepts surprised his guests with creme brulee and his own version of caramel sauce.

This year, **Gary Rothenberger** and **Leonard Juncker** are in a new location, the old Post Office building on Gladys, and are eager to show it off.

Other locations include the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce (**Jim Rich** had cheese cake last year); the Beaumont Enterprise; Broussard's Mortuary; Collision and Classics; Ethan Allen; the Foundation for Southeast Texas; KFDM-TV; the Southeast Texas Food Bank; the Texas Energy Museum; and the Wells Peyton & Greenberg law firm.

For only \$7, you'll get a sandwich, cookie, pickle, chips and a drink - and maybe more, if you sign up.

www.jkchevrolet.com



We make dreams come true

409-722-0443

Star graphics

Copiers * Printing Solutions
Fax Machines * Postage Equipment

409-892-0671

Konica SHARP

BRichmond O. Bennett III, PC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & CONSULTANTS

2965 IH-10 East
409/896-2600

Beaumont, TX 77702-1002
FAX 409/892-0635