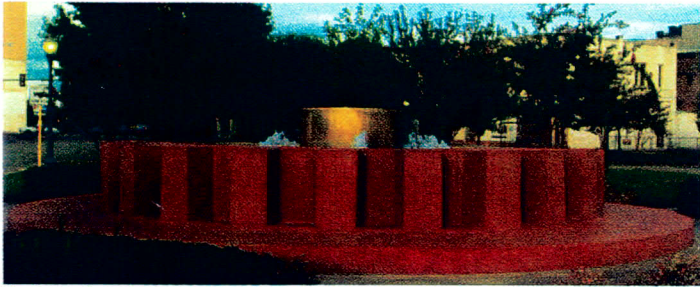


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

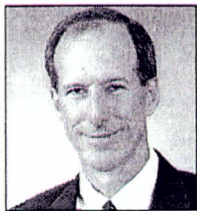


Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club #72

Vol. 93 No. 47 June 16, 2004

## Jeffrey R. Theall, Ph.D. - NASA



Dr. Jeff Theall currently serves as Deputy Manager for Russian Element Integration in the International Space Station Program Office. As such, his fundamental duty is to ensure that the Russian modules and vehicles appropriately interact with the rest of the station.

He maintains constant communications with Russian technical specialists and managers on all topics that simultaneously affect both Russian and US segments of the ISS. Examples are: joint safety plans, common environment management, altitude and attitude strategies for flight, logistics cargo, crew

provisions, and resource management plans.

Jeff Theall completed his Ph.D. in space physics at the University of Houston in 1990. He spent the next four years with the McDonnell Douglas Space Systems Company where he implemented measures to protect the then planned Space Station Freedom from the space environment.

In 1994, Dr. Theall joined NASA and since then has served in various capacities from space scientist to technical manager. He has published over twenty-five technical papers on topics including ionospheric physics, particu-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Head Table



INVOCATION  
**BEN ALFORD**



PLEDGE  
**MARK FERRIS**



4-WAY TEST  
**RONNIE JONES**



GUEST INTRODUCTION  
**DONNA BIRDWELL**

**From the chef: Baked Chicken**

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**Future Programs**

**June**  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Harland Merriam  
 30<sup>th</sup> President Azim's Swan Song

**Make-ups**

**Monday:**

No. Port Arthur ..... Holiday Inn Hwy 69  
 Vidor ..... Hibernia National Bank

**Tuesday:**

Spindletop ..... Holiday Inn 11th St.  
 Orange ..... Sunset Grove  
 Port Neches ..... Pompano Club

**Wednesday:**

Groves ..... Pompano Club

**Thursday:**

Port Arthur ..... Holiday Inn Hwy 69

**Friday:**

Nederland ..... Sanderson's

On-line: [www.rotary5450.org/eclub](http://www.rotary5450.org/eclub)  
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

**Program Review**

Probably the lives of every one of our members have been touched by cancer in some way. Dr. Sen Pathak, a cytogeneticist at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston discussed with us last week some of the findings of his research relating to the identification of cancer in cells.

From Dr. Pathak we had a comprehensive crash course about:

Cells – the nucleus of every cell in our bodies contains:

Chromosomes – humans have 46 grouped in 23 pairs consisting of one chromosome from each of our parents, and composed of:

Genes – which control the transmission of hereditary characteristics when the cells divide, and are composed of:

DNA

Dr. Pathak showed slides of chromosome pairs in both normal and cancerous cells. Clearly evident in the cancerous cells even to our untrained eyes, in some pieces of chromosomes had broken off and linked with chromo-

somes in other pairs, chromosomes had formed into rings which would prevent them from splitting correctly during cell division and some chromosomes in a pair had grown into abnormally long strings due to genetic damage.

Additionally, there is an area at the tips of each chromosome called the telomere which acts as the chromosome's brake. When the telomere is damaged or destroyed by genetic defect, age, environment or other effects, the dividing cell may go haywire causing what we know as cancer.

Through their research, Dr. Pathak and his colleagues have been able to identify deficiencies in specific chromosome pairs which are characteristic of certain cancers.

Dr. Pathak touched briefly on the development of stem cell therapy for many cancers, much like bone marrow transplants in the last two decades. One of the major benefits of using stem cells is that they would be harvested from healthy parts of the patient's body (like skin cells), cultured in the laboratory and then reintroduced into the patient's body

*(Continued on page 3)*

**New Paul Harris Fellows**



Left to right: Janice Trammell, Alan Sampson, Ted Moor III, Bo Weinbaum, President Azim, Lauren Brooks, Jay Johnson, Max Duplant, Tom Neild, Jerry White, Carolyn Howard and Frank Maida. Not pictured is David Gaultney.

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**Your tax deductible \$100 donation will support the Beaumont Rotary Foundation's scholarship program,  
Camp Enterprise and the "A Book About Me" program for kindergarten students throughout Beaumont,  
and will fund improvement projects at the Boy Scouts' Camp Urand.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

to fight cancerous cells without the worry of donor tissue matching and tissue rejection.

One interesting aside in Dr. Pathak's presentation was that even the aging process can be identified in the chromosomal analysis. Yes, there are some things that even hair dye and plastic surgery cannot cover.

In the Q&A at the conclusion of Dr. Pathak's excellent presentation, two important questions were posed:

Is it possible to detect cancer by observing change in chromosomes in blood analysis rather than going through a more invasive procedure such as a colonoscopy?

The answer was a definite YES.

Does Dr. Pathak support stem cell research?

He prefaced his answer by proclaiming his belief in God and said that while he does not support reproductive stem cell research, he strongly believes in therapeutic stem cell research for treating cancer and other conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, as does former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Thank you to **Ted Moor** for bringing to us this program by such an accomplished individual who is on the very cutting edge of research to save lives and to **Dr. Lulu Smith** for her introduction.

## Birthdays

### 17<sup>th</sup> Doug Nelson (96)

General Manager,  
Transit Mix Concrete & Materials



A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Camille are the parents of April, Ashley, and Angela, and are members of

Westgate Church of Christ. He enjoys golf fishing, hunting and scuba diving.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Ralph Martin (99)

President, Grace Communications



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Lamar University and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminar. He and his wife Charlotte are the parents of

Shaun, Shane, Steve, Stacey, Selena and Sharla are members of Memorial Christian Church. He enjoys playing golf.

*(Continued from page 1)*

late and neutral gas interaction with spacecraft, orbital debris protection for the International Space Station and the orbital debris environment.

Dr. Theall has been interviewed as a space expert by ABC News with Peter Jennings, Discovery News, CNN, National Geographic, and others. He lives in Friendswood, Texas with his wife and their three children.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Rick Barrilleaux (02)

Director of Economic Development,  
Beaumont Chamber of Commerce



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Upper Iowa University. He and his wife Vicki are the parents of Drue and Clayton, and are members of St. Charles

Catholic Church. He enjoys playing golf.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Alex Broussard (54)

Chairman of the Board,  
Broussard's Mortuary



A Beaumont native, he is a graduate of Texas A&M. He and his wife Marie are the parents of Dale, Tom, David and Marian, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus

Catholic Church. He enjoys attending Rotary Club meetings all over the world. Alex is a Paul Harris Fellow.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Roger McCabe (81)

Shareholder,  
Mehaffy & Weber



Born in Taylorville, Illinois, he is a graduate of Marquette University and the University of Iowa. He and his wife Sharon are the parents of Danny, Michael and

Jonathan, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting water sports and travel. Roger is a Paul Harris Fellow.

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Program Director - Linda Smith, M.D.