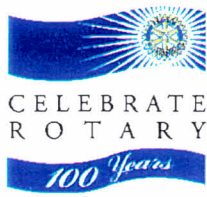


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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Dr. Jimmy Simmons - Lamar University



Veteran educator James "Jimmy" Simmons took office September 1, 1999, as Lamar University's 10th president, bringing a wealth of perspective on Southeast Texas and Lamar to the position. Regents of The Texas State University System unanimously appointed him to the presidency.

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. From 2001 to 2004, enrollment increased almost 33 percent under his leadership.

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. Simmons serves as the chairman of the board of the Southland Conference, the

(Continued on page 3)

Head Table



INVOCATION
RUSS SCHULTZ



PLEDGE
FRANK ALEGRIA



4-WAY TEST
SCOT QUINTEL



GUEST INTRODUCTION
MELINDA MCNEELY

From the chef: Roast Beef



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September

29th Representative Joe Deshotel

October

6th Roland Ramirez, Market Analyst

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

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(limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

Rene' Sissons McCabe, **Roger McCabe's** daughter in law, brought home to our club the importance of the current book drive, designed to deliver books written in English to schools in South Africa.

A former teacher, Rene' educated us on her country (she is a citizen of South Africa). It is about twice the size of Texas and its population is twice as large. Almost 10 percent of that population is white but the entire population is bilingual, with most people speaking at least three languages, she told us.

Schools tend to be overcrowded and under equipped, with many students lacking desks, chairs and books. Rene' taught in a school with 38 students in her classroom but many schools in the cities of South Africa have 50-80 students per teacher.

Although it is the most economically advanced country in sub-Saharan Africa, huge problems exist with almost 50% unemployment and a high crime rate, Rene' told us, proving her point

with a picture of a small Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet surrounded by a wire fence designed to keep burglars away.

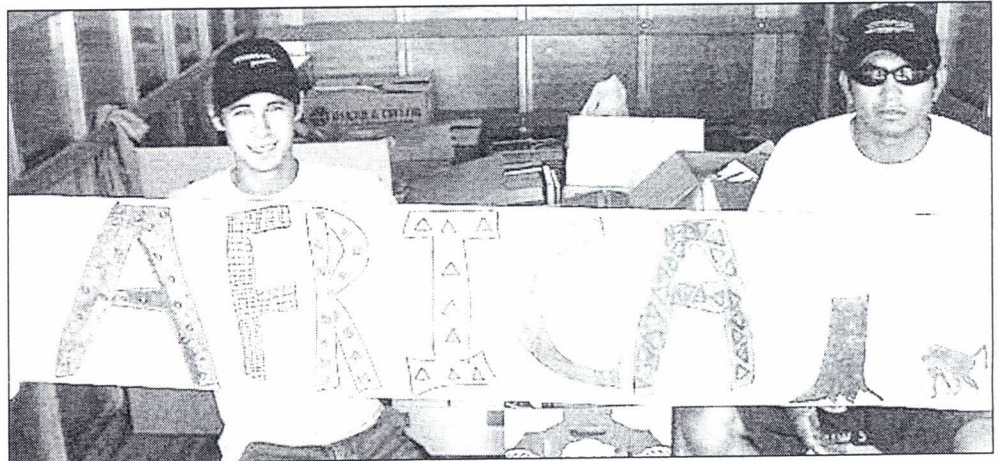
She also showed us slides of big cities, beautiful waterfalls, leopards, elephants and witch doctors, proving that South Africa is indeed a diverse country, living up to its slogan of the "Rainbow Nation."

Rene' pointed out that it costs \$1,800 for one of the containers in which the books we collect will be sent and \$3,000 for the shipping itself. Nothing is wasted since the containers will be used as libraries once they arrive in South Africa.

She appealed for our help in collecting books, anything from encyclopedias and textbooks to novels, and in paying for the shipping costs.

Rene's love for her country and her strong desire to help its poorer citizens shone through her presentation.

Thank you, Roger, for arranging the program.



Thanks to everyone who brought books for our RI Centennial International Project, Books for South Africa. We collected over 1,000 books at last week's meeting.

Chair **Tillie Hickman's** students at Odom Academy prepared a wonderful and colorful sign and **Azim Keramati**

provided a truck and crew to deliver the books to Lamar University for storage.

We will be collecting books through the end of October and will announce future dates for members to bring the boxed (preferably) books to our meetings.

Let's keep up the good work!

**Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
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Birthdays

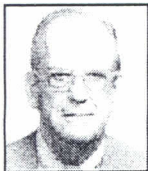
(Continued from page 1)
11-member NCAA athletic conference of which Lamar University was a charter member.

22nd Wilton White (79)



President & CEO, SouthTrust Bank
Born in Corpus Christi, he is a graduate of Southwestern, Lamar, the University of Indiana and Rutgers University. He 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.

23rd Gator Dollinger (47)



Retired
Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Texas A & M University. He and are the parents of Ken and Patricia. He enjoys growing roses and is a Consultant Rosarian and a Rose Judge. Gator is a Paul Harris Fellow.

24th Robert Hickman (03)



Vice President & Principal, Leap Engineering
Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Shawn are the parents of Abigail Elizabeth, and are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. He enjoys fishing and boating.

24th Thomas Mayo (02)



Attorney, Mehaffy & Weber
Born in Baytown, he is a graduate of Southwestern University 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. He enjoys hunting and traveling.

24th Russ Waddill (01)



Founding Director, Lamar University, Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies
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. He enjoys playing golf, playing the guitar, and mountain sports.

25th Twila Baker (03)



Director of Internal Audit, Lamar University
Born in Tulia, she is a graduate of Angelo State University. She and her husband Victor are the parents of Chris, and are members of Pinewood First Baptist Church. She enjoys playing tennis.

25th Jerry Nathan III (68)



Of Counsel, Benckenstein, Norvell & Nathan
Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas 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.

25th Hubert Oxford III (88)



Partner, Benckenstein & Oxford
Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University and the University of Texas School of Law. He and his wife Cindy are the parents of Franny, Hubert, Mary, Ginny, Danielle, Adrianna and Gabriella, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys traveling and learning new languages.

25th Joy Reagan (88)



Retired
Born in St. Louis Missouri, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She is the mother of Cyndy and Eric, and she and her husband Charles Regenbrecht are mem-

Simmons' career with Lamar began in 1970 when he joined the faculty as an instructor and director of the marching band. He has risen through the ranks, later serving as director of bands and as chair of the Department of Music and Theatre before his appointment as dean. He previously taught and served as orchestra and band director in the Beaumont school district and as assistant director of bands and woodwind instructor at Memphis State University, where he earned his bachelor of science in music. Simmons earned his master's degree from the University of Houston and doctorate from McNeese State University.

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.

bers of Calder Baptist Church. She enjoys speaking, writing, and participating in life enrichment workshops.

27th Jay Johnson III (68)



Retired
Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas, the University of Chicago and Indiana University. He and his wife Betty are the parents of Laura and Letitia, and are members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He enjoys traveling, reading and spending time with his grandchildren. Jay is a Paul Harris Fellow.

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