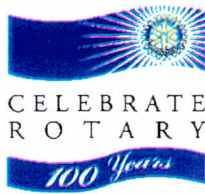


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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery

ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

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Representative Joe Deshotel

Representative Joe Deshotel represents the 22nd Legislative District, which includes parts of Jefferson and Orange Counties. He is a successful attorney, businessman and life-long resident of Beaumont.

First elected in 1998, Rep. Deshotel has distinguished himself in each of the sessions he has served. After the end of the 76th Legislative Session, the Legislative Study Group (LSG), the largest caucus in the House, presented Representative Deshotel with the Rising Star Award. The award is given to only three representatives of the 25-member freshman class and is given to honor their outstanding dedication and achievement.

In the 77th Legislative session, his colleagues in the Texas Legislative Black

Caucus elected him Chairman of that legislative body. In the 78th Legislative session, he served on powerful committees, and used his positions to make sure that all voices were heard. He has been honored by numerous organizations, and was also given an Honorable Mention in the highly anticipated and respected Ten Best List from *Texas Monthly Magazine*. Rep. Deshotel serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Deshotel brings experience, insight and knowledgeable leadership to the issue of higher education. Joe has been married for 17 years to the former Claudia Darjean of Opelousas, Louisiana. He is the proud father of Southwest Texas University student W. Joseph Deshotel.

Head Table



INVOCATION
MICHEAL CLAYTON



PLEDGE
MARY RANDALL

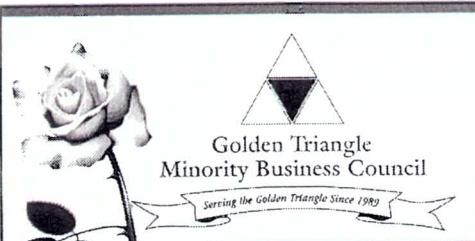


4-WAY TEST
ALAN SAMPSON



GUEST INTRODUCTION
ROBERT THOMPSON

From the chef: Roast Pork Loin



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 rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
 Meets Wednesdays at Noon

Future Programs

October

6th Roland Ramirez, Market Analyst
 13th Bob Philips, Texas Country Reporter

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
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

Listening to Rotarian Dr. **Jimmy Simmons**, President of Lamar University, one cannot help but think that the school is in the midst of a true renaissance. And helping Dr. Simmons explain the changes the University has seen during his six years as President, were two special guests, Student Government President Distortia Jefferson, and Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar alumna Robbie Waters. The members were also fortunate to have Dr. Simmons' gracious wife Susan in the audience.

Proving Lamar's involvement in and commitment to the community by asking those with various connections to the University to stand, Dr. Simmons eventually had the entire club on its feet.

Proudly reporting a 35% increase in enrollment since 1999, the 10,800 students currently on the rolls represent a tremendous increase when one considers that expert estimates had predicted a decline in enrollment to 7,500 from 1999 levels. Dr. Simmons proudly reported that graduation rates and student retention rates were up as well.

Some 50 new faculty positions have been added since 1999 and the University can boast of three new endowed chairs, two new doctoral programs in audiology and education, and a third doctoral program which will be coming online very soon in chemical engineering.

And while all of the wonderful visual improvements to the campus have not gone unnoticed, recent and upcoming improvements support the campus infrastructure as well. The three beautiful new residence halls are filled with 1,700 students living on campus. Plans for a new 500 seat dining hall were revealed, and Dr. Simmons detailed the amenities that will be included in an \$18 million renovation to McDonald Gym providing students, faculty, staff, and alums with a first rate recreational complex.

Dr. Simmons spoke briefly of the athletic season the school hopes to enjoy with

Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Tuesday, September 21st, and approved the following:

New Member:

Eugene D. Wilson
 Vice President
 Wilson Capital, Inc.
 "Brokerage – Business"
 Proposed by **Rod Carroll**

Unless written objections to the Board of Directors are received by Friday, October 8th, the candidate listed above will be considered elected to membership.

Leave of Absence extension:

Dessie Richard
 Business pressure – 9/1 – 10/31/04

Resignations Accepted with Regret:

Jena Armondo - business transfer
 Cheryl Carson - job change
 Bonita Gibson - job change
 Jodi Hilton - job change
 Katherine Snyder - business transfer

promises of an exciting basketball season from Billy Tubbs, and news that legendary baseball coach Jim Gilligan will be inducted into the Texas Baseball Hall of Fame later this year.

The research and scholarships promoted by a first rate faculty are a magnet for economic development according to Dr. Simmons. He cited a \$2.5 million grant from the Department of Defense that will put leading minds at the University in contact with scientists and others from Radiance Technologies to develop fuel cell technology.

In closing, Dr. Simmons briefly discussed likely increases in tuition that will follow the growth and development of the University. He urged the members to help keep known scholarship programs alive and work towards new scholarships that help make quality education affordable for students.

The club is indebted to **Allison Nathan Golias** for arranging for Dr. Simmons' appearance and **Steve Doblin** for his introduction of him.

**Wathen,
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& Juncker,**

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Konica TOSHIBA hp SHARP

Press Release

The Beaumont Hilton, "home" of the Rotary Club of Beaumont for more than 20 years, has been sold. Following is a press release concerning the changes:

John Bushman of the Investment Corporation of America announced today that his company has purchased the Hilton Beaumont Hotel on Interstate 10. Bushman's company, based in Odessa, Texas, has investments in hotels, shopping malls, office buildings, television and radio stations.

The hotel, to be named The MCM Elegante' Hotel and Conference Center, will undergo a multi-million dollar renovation over the next six months to make it the only four-star quality hotel in Southeast Texas.

"This hotel is a tremendous facility with ideal location in the Golden Triangle," Bushman said. "Unfortunately it has not been fully utilized and maintained in recent years. We're going to change that in a big way!"

"We will renovate every guest room in the hotel from stem to stern," said Bushman. The new rooms will feature; mahogany poster beds with 13" Simmons Pillow-top mattresses, oversized linens, custom bedspreads with coordinated dust ruffles and pillow shams, oversized work desks, ergonomic chair, leather chair and ottoman, high speed internet access, two phones, marble bath vanities and floors, Bath & Body Works amenities, and in-room Starbucks Coffee.

A Concierge Level will feature an Executive Lounge area with a business center, continental breakfast, evening hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Concierge Level rooms will also feature terry bathrobes, oversized towels, vanity mirrors, bottled water and teas, and turndown services.

The lobby and public areas will feature lots of oversized leather furniture, live plants and fountains. Restaurant and lounge facilities will be similarly upgraded.

"We're not stopping with the facility," said Bill Bianchi, newly appointed General Manager. "We are assembling the finest service team in the area. We will provide the friendliest service, cleanest rooms and best quality food." Bianchi, a twenty plus year veteran of the hospitality industry has served as President of the Golden Triangle Hotel & Lodging Association for the last two years. Patti Owens, newly appointed Director of Sales & Marketing is mainstay in the local hotel in-

Birthdays

30th Van Greer (04)
Vice President & General Manager,
KBTV - Channel 4



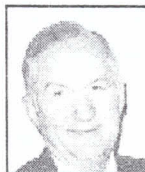
Born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colorado. He and his wife Alea are the parents of Jordan. He enjoys skiing, playing golf, travel and spending time with his family.

30th Chuck Wall, Jr. (78)
R.O. Williams & Company



Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Louisiana State University and Lamar University. He and his wife Lois Ann are the parents of Jennifer, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. He enjoys playing tennis. Chuck is a Paul Harris Fellow

2nd Gene Arnold (93)
Director,
Small Business Development Center



Born in Wells, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of Lloyd and Lyn. He enjoys playing golf and flying.

dustry and was most recently Director of Sales at the Holiday Inn Midtown. Steve McGaha, formerly of the Tower Club and Holiday Inn Midtown is the new Director of Food & Beverage.

"The MCM Elegante' Hotel and Conference Center will be the premiere, full service hotel in Southeast Texas," said Bushman, "for a major convention, family reunion, the corporate traveler, an elegant wedding, or a poolside barbeque."

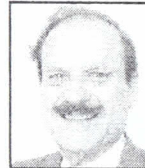
As for the name change, Bushman is using it on new hotel purchases in Odessa, Texas, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Beaumont and more to come. The initials are associated with Bushman-owned Music City Mall in Odessa. "The positioning of the hotel is 'Southern Hospitality and Elegance'," said Bushman, "and the Elegante portrays that level of quality. Our motto is; 'Great service, friendliness, and cleanliness.'"

2nd Eric Meadows (99)
Partner, Phelan Investments



Born in Houston, he is a graduate of Fordham University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Kathryn Grace are the parents of Morgan, Caroline, Jackson and Isabel. He enjoys playing golf, sailing and tennis.

5th Ron Baumer (94)
President, Beaumont Travel Consultants



Born in St. Joseph, Missouri, he is a graduate of University of Michigan and Akron University. He and his wife Pauline are the parents of Andrew, Michael, Megan, Eric and Nicki. He enjoys photography.

5th Milt Prewitt (93)
Owner/President,
J.M. Prewitt Company



Born in Lufkin, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife Connie are the parents of Douglas, Lucy and Angela. He enjoys participating in outdoor activities, sports and spending time with his family. Milt is a Paul Harris Fellow



President Maurine surprised Past President and two-term Past District Governor Alex Broussard at last week's meeting, presenting him with his 4-sapphire Paul Harris pin in recognition of his continued support of and generosity to The Rotary Foundation

Lost & Found

Sunglasses, gray lenses
Left on table at 9/22 meeting
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