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ROTARYgrams

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President Gerald Condon congratulates Thomas Williams as our club's newest Paul Harris Fellow. Tom received his certificate and sapphire pin as a second level Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his donation of \$2,000 to The Rotary Foundation at last week's meeting.

DR. JIMMY SIMMONS LAMAR UNIVERSITY



We are all very familiar with Jimmy Simmons and appreciate his outstanding leadership at Lamar University. His response to Hurricane Rita is a textbook example of what to do after a disaster to minimize additional costs and to expedite the restoration of programs and services. Dr. Simmons will provide a post-hurricane update as part of

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HEADTABLE



INVOCATION
 RANDY FLUKE



PLEDGE
 MAX DUPLANT



4-WAY TEST
 IVY PATE



GUEST INTRODUCTION
 ROBERT THOMPSON

Pork Chops & Red Pepper Basil Chicken

IT'S BACK! IT'S BEAUTIFUL! IT'S BETTER THAN BEFORE!

**HOLIDAY INN BEAUMONT PLAZA
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Future Programs

August
 16th Harland Merriam - Southeast
 Texas Interfaith Community

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port ArthurHoliday 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.rotaryclubone.org
 (limit 3 times in each quarter)

REVIEW

Karen Bourdier, Vice President of the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board, spoke about "The \$10 Billion Boom" that will be happening in this area in the next four to five years. This level of economic development hasn't been seen since the days of Spindletop. This "Boom" will include the development of Motiva, TOTAL, Valero, ExxonMobil LNG, Cheniere LNG, and the Sempra LNG.

The Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board serves Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties. Most of the funding for the Board comes from the U.S. Department of Labor and filters down to the Texas Workforce Commission. Ms. Bourdier also talked about the website www.WorkinTexas.com, which is maintained by Workforce Centers.

Local involvement of the Southeast Texas Workforce Center includes childcare, youth programs (Power Zone), adult training coordination, economic development, rapid response, and the Workforce Summit, which was held in April, 2006. As a result of the summit, five clusters of industry were named: Industrial/Mechanical; Engineering and Construction; Logistics and Distribution; Health care and Medical; and Retail, Hospitality, Call Centers, and Financial Institutions.

Karen stressed the critical basic skills that are needed. The "soft skills" include work ethics, problem solving, teamwork, communication and customer service, among others. The "hard skills" that are

needed include math, writing, reading, keyboarding, and computer literacy. She mentioned that Lamar University, Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar-Orange and Lamar-Port Arthur are on board, but she emphasized the importance of getting K-12 on board.

Karen then focused her attention on Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. She said that the Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board played a key role in the recovery efforts. They were stationed at Ford Park, but they also had a Mobile Unit and held several job fairs. The Development Board has administered a \$20 million National Emergency Grant this past year that was received from the U.S. Department of Labor. This was the largest grant in history given by the Dept. of Labor. As a result of this grant, many new partnerships and collaborations have been forged.

In closing, Karen apologized for not having an appropriate Boudreaux/Thibodeaux story to share with us, saying she usually left that to her husband, our Past President **Terry**.

(Continued from page 1)

his presentation this week. He will also provide a report on the exciting economic development initiatives underway at the university.

The attraction of new research dollars, new faculty and talent, high technology assets, and work with the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce to attract new companies based upon the transfer of research to commercial activities is a primary

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community goal. Around the country, universities are the drivers for economic development especially where traditional industries have left or downsized. Lamar University is the key to the future of Southeast Texas and significant progress is underway.

Jimmy 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.

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 11-member NCAA athletic conference of which Lamar University is a charter member.

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 as-

BIRTHDAYS

10th Charlie Jabbia (04)

Owner,
N&T Construction



Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, he is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University. He and his wife Elaine are the parents of Lauren Ashley and Spencer Charles, and are members of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church. He enjoys playing golf, reading, history and the outdoors.

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.

Jimmy and his wife Susan have three children and four grandchildren.

12th Danny Babineaux (98)

President,
Air Comfort



Born in Orlando, Florida, he is a graduate of Lamar Institute of Technology. He and his wife Charlene are the parents of Bret and Slate, and are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting and playing tennis.

12th Azim Keramati (86)

President,
Van Deventer Furniture Rentals
Boomtown Furniture
Premier Corporate Housing



Born in Iran, he is a graduate of Texas Southern University and is studying for master's degree at the University of Houston. He and his wife

Marie are the parents of Layla, Kristina and Cameron, and are members of Calvary Baptist Church. He enjoys traveling with his family, playing golf and fishing. Azim is a Paul Harris Fellow.

14th Glenn Shoemake (05)

Executive Director,
Calder Woods



Born in Fort Worth, he is a graduate of Houston Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife Sharon are the parents of Daniel and Angela, and are members of Calder Baptist Church. He enjoys playing golf and fishing.

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