



Spring  
Weekly

# Reader

Volume 112, Issue 172, May 7, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club  
[www.PlanoRotary.com](http://www.PlanoRotary.com)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### May 7

Lynn Ojeda, Principal  
PISD Academy HS  
"Plano ISD's Newest  
School of Choice"

### May 14

"Plano Rotary Club 70th  
Birthday Celebration"

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Samuel Huffines	May 01
John Priest	May 05
Chris Parr	May 06
Jason Rice	May 09
Howard Matson	May 11
Eugene Champagne	May 18
Kelly Palmer	May 20
Robert Epstein	May 21
Mary Jo Dean	May 27
Lenny Schwartz	May 27
Wally Reed	May 29
Randy Wright	May 29



Leave it to Randy Wright to work a learning moment into any event. Woven between his exactly flamboyant induction of new members, Wanda Russell and Mike Jobe, Randy gave a brief and unexpectedly "Trivial Pursuit" set of details ranging from the Four Way Test's origins as a Hail Mary Pass to save Club Aluminum Products from bankruptcy to the name "Rotary" deriving from the original club's need to rotate meetings from office to office of the inaugural



members. So now you're well armed to sweep the next Geeks Who Drink Bar Night Trivia – but I digress. John Caldwell announced and expressed his appreciation for two more Paul Harris Recognition Candidates, Kathy Fang and Mary Jo Dean (Paul Harris Plus 1). Then we were treated to a giddy Mike Robinett listing a few hundred of his favorite fellow graduates of his alma mater before introducing the President of University of North Texas, Neal J. Smatresk. After a brief canvas of the crowd to determine the odds of a flat out



Mean Green takeover and determining a few shy of decisive victory, Doctor Smatresk made quick work of apologizing for ever leaving Texas after serving as Dean of Sciences at University of Texas at Arlington and being lured away by Hawaii and then Nevada before coming to his senses and returning in 2013 not only to lead "the biggest university no one's ever heard of," but also to be closer to his children.

While we all think of UNT as an Arts School... (even though Mike completely forgot to mention Lyle Mays as a graduate – just sayin') Smatresk took us on a brisk

*continued on page 2*



tour of many departments rated in the top 10 nationwide such as Public Administration at 6th, Business' Logistics rated 3rd and Military History ranked somewhere in the top 5 or 10. He (allowably) bragged a 73% employment of graduates and citing the high tech concentration of North Texas as second only to Silicon Valley, has committed to developing first generation students into a strong future work force for the region.

He ran through an interesting new initiative, a three suite storefront in his administration office to facilitate access to technology and problem solving resources within the college to business and industry. He's quick to point out it's not a give-away deal. He plans to make at least some money at it. But profit motive always goes over well with us. (Hey, ya gotta make it to give it, right?).

We got a nice economics lesson on prices of UNT compared to his own son's expensive private school degree. Lots of scholarship math and stuff – including a quick “How to afford a Maserati instead” financial exercise. While the figures were impressive, I thought his enthusiasm was more so. He got to brag about a bunch of interesting engineers UNT has landed on staff and a bunch of bioengineering grants with lots of zeroes on them and some serious big secret squirrel military research. He invoked the “We could tell you but we'd have to kill ya” clause. So that was cool.

In the questions, Lynn Schwartz asked an innocuous sounding one about affiliate schools in the UNT system and opened the topic of a campaign to start a campus along the 75 corridor. Apparently UNT has designs on Plano/McKinney – but was quick to assure they don't see themselves as competing with Collin College, pointing out collocation arrangements and

other collaborations, but cited some challenges. Someone suggested there might be some upcoming space near Collin Creek Mall – laughter and jollity ensued.

Alice Hobbs quizzed him about commuter versus resident numbers to which we provided stats of 80% resident and 20% commuter. (And this guy didn't even have notes.) He talked about some new housing they are putting up and some investment in growing the student housing at an affordable but safe level.

Kelly Palmer had to get all “Think Global” on us and asked what, given the chance, Dr. Smatresk would tell Washington to do to fix the student debt problem. He suggested everybody just come to UNT since they have a 73% placement rate and are cheap. (laughter) But mostly to invest in higher ed facilities and systems and loosen up foreign student restrictions that were tightened after 9/11 to help build the economy.

Earnest bestowed upon him our “Highly Coveted Perpetual Calendar” to last him into perpetuity.....

And I have to take issue with my fellow clubmates. When Earnest cued us, we really blew it – half of us jumping straight to “Perpetual Calendar.” PEOPLE.. it goes like this - maybe a “script” is a more suitable format.

Earnest : “This is our....”

US : “Highly Coveted Perpetual Calendar”

So let's all work on this. Ok. I'd hate to have to call any extra rehearsals for just one line.

Thanks.

And we got out early.



## Student Citizen of the Year Banquet Hosted by: The Plano Rotary Club

Recognizing outstanding students from:  
Barron, Forman, Meadows, Memorial,  
Mendenhall & Sigler Elementary Schools

Wednesday, May 27th  
5:30 to 7:30 PM  
The Southfork Hotel  
Central Expressway &  
15th Street, Plano, TX  
Business Casual

### *Guests & Visiting Rotarians*

#### **Guest**

Sherry Stone  
Art Stone  
April pigner

#### **Guest of**

Alice Hobbs  
Alice Hobbs  
Reedy Spigner

#### **Visiting Rotarian**

Ben Langlotz  
Shaheen Alam  
Matt Lagos

#### **Home Club**

Dallas  
Plano Metro  
Plano Sunrise

**Proposed Member :** Blair Ritchey

**Proposed by :** Kelly Palmer

**Classification :** Director/Small Business Owner



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