



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

formally invites you to attend

**THE OGLETREE HOUSE  
RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY**

Friday, September 11, 2009  
9:30 a.m.

Front Lawn of the Ogletree House  
102 Alumni Drive  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



For questions or more information,  
contact the Alumni Association office at 601.266.5013.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held  
in the Thad Cochran Center, Ballroom I.

Dress: Business Casual

# Spokes

August 18, 2009  
[www.hattiesburgrotary.com](http://www.hattiesburgrotary.com)

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
2009-2010

**OFFICERS**  
MARY CROMARTIE  
*President*

TOM POTTER  
*President-Elect*

BILL MCLEOD  
*Vice-President*

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

GENE OWENS  
*Sergeant-At-Arms*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2010**  
Maura McLaughlin  
Steve Ramp  
Erik Graham  
Wally Weakley

*Past President:*  
Richard Topp

**Term Expiring – June 30, 2011**  
Heath Hillman  
Gene Owens  
Mike Ratliff  
Aime Spears

**SPOKES Editor**  
Aime Spears  
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*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

P.O. Box 15185  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39404



**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 8/11/2009

President Mary Cromartie presided over the meeting.

Ric Corts gave the invocation. Bill MacLaughlan led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mary then led members in the Rotary Four Way Test.

Gene Owens recognized today's visitors. Wade Wycht was a guest of Erik Graham. Ellen Ramp and Marilyn Larmon were guests of Steve Ramp. Sean Priebe was a guest of Mike Ratliff. David Oliver was a guest of Tom Potter. Dean Cromartie was a guest of Mary.

Thanks also for today's Greeters, Larry LeBlanc and Scott Hummel.

Jaclyn Adams reported that the Social Committee has changed the date of the wine tasting fund raising event from October 2, 2009 to October 16th. Members were asked to please make the change on their calendar.

Mary reported to the membership that several board members attended the Chapter meeting this past weekend. Thanks to Richard Topp's leadership the club was presented with a Presidential Citation. Mary also noted that the club has received recognition from the boys and girls club for our recent contributions.

Evan Dillard gave today's classification talk. Evan and his family have been in Hattiesburg for the past sixteen months. He is employed at Forrest General Hospital. He and his wife have two children. The Dillards are originally from Alabama. They moved to Hattiesburg from the Tallahassee, Florida area.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Erik Graham introduced today's speakers, Nikki McCelleis and Sharon Person from Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting began producing a nationally syndicated children's program in 2005 by the title of Reading Between the Lions. The public broadcast program had previously been produced in the Boston area. The organization was unable to find a producer in the northeast that offered an affordable production. Mississippi Public Broadcasting volunteered to take on the challenge. It is an Emmy Award Winning program that teaches young people to read.

In addition to the television program, Mississippi Public Broadcasting has teamed up with Mississippi State Extension Service's Technical Services to offer a reading program through the licensed day care centers throughout Mississippi. The day care program offers mentors who teach the teachers how to read to the children by modeling best practices. The day care program also offers the books and supplemental material that allows the day care instructors to build on the program.

The Jim Barksdale Reading Institute provided the program an 8 million dollar grant. Reading Between the Lions is now offered in 51 child care centers in the metro Jackson area. The goal is to expand the program to all of the 1,600 licensed child care centers across the state. The program is also being offered in libraries across the state, thanks to a grant from Entergy.

Community support and financial contributions are being solicited to expand this program. Mississippi Public Broadcasting has created a relationship with Rotary Clubs across the state. If the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg became a sponsor of a local project, it would be the first club in District 6840 to participate in the program. The fiscal cost for participation is an initial \$1,500 contribution to purchase the books and other necessary supplies and to provide the necessary training. It is a three year financial commitment with the club providing an additional \$300 per year to replenish and replace damaged books and supplies. The club members would also be asked to read to the children at the selected site on a weekly basis.

This reading program has a proven track record. According to the speakers, tested children have a four to one improvement in their reading skills when compared to children who have not participated in the program.

Work continues in the Hattiesburg area to secure a site and get a program started this year. It was noted that the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg's board of directors has agreed to support this project with details for involvement from club members forthcoming. The fundraisers being planned for the year, with the exception of the Night in Italy, are being planned to provide funding for the Reading Between the Lions project and other such programs throughout the year.

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Biography of Benjamin Morris

A native of Hattiesburg, Benjamin Morris is completing a PhD in cultural heritage studies at the University of Cambridge.

A Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow from 2005-2006, his doctoral research examines the role of culture in the rebuilding process in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Also a writer and editor, his creative work has been published and won awards in both the US and the UK.

Benjamin is the son of Virginia and Dr. Toxi Morris.

## FROM YOUR BOARD

Your board members are meeting this Saturday to work on a strategic plan for our club. The member surveys will be a vital tool for assessing the needs and wants of club members. If you didn't fill out a survey last week, please do so this week. Tom Potter will be collecting these surveys today.

Any member that would like to attend the meeting on Saturday may attend. Please advise a board member that you will attend so that Mary may count you in for lunch.

We want to hear from you so this is the best time to let your wishes be known. Thanks for all those who contribute so much to make our club a success!

**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE....**Sponsors, Jaclyn Adams and Lance Nail have proposed Shannon Woodard for membership into the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg. Shannon is Director of Development for the University of Southern Mississippi College of Business.

## IMPORTANT DATES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Aug 22</b>  | <b>Strategic Planning meeting at Mary's house 9:00 am- all interested members welcome</b> |
| <b>Aug 25</b>  | <b>FEMA Program</b>   |
| <b>Aug 31</b>  | <b>Rotary Board Meeting at Mary's house</b>   |
| <b>Sept 11</b> | <b>9:30 am Olgree House Ribbon Cutting</b>  |
| <b>Oct 30</b>  | <b>Rotary Golf Tournament</b>   |

## Meeting Dates for Area Clubs

| <i>Monday</i>              | <i>Tuesday</i>          | <i>Wednesday</i>                | <i>Thursday</i>            |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bay Springs - 12:00        | Columbia - 12:00        | Clinton - 12:00                 | Madison-Ridgeland - 12:00  |
| City Hall                  | The Backdoor Restaurant | Baptist Health Plex             | Steam Room Grill 155 N     |
| Bolton - 7:30              | Flowood - 12:00         | Gluckstadt - 12:00              | Jackson                    |
| Methodist Church           | River Oaks Hospital     | Parker House Restaurant         | Taylorville - 12:00        |
| Collins - 12:00            | Laurel - 12:00          | Hattiesburg Sunrise - 7:00      | MS Power Co. Building      |
| Cedars Restaurant          | Laurel Country Club     | Wesley Medical Center Cafeteria | Wiggins - 12:00            |
| Ellisville - 12:00         | North Jackson - 12:00   | Heidelberg - 12:00              | Gulf Coast C.C. Cafeteria  |
| J.C.J.C. Cafeteria         | St. James               | Library                         |                            |
| Jackson - 12:00            | Episcopal Church        | Poplarville - 12:00             | <i>Friday</i>              |
| MS Museum of Art           |                         | Pearl River C.C. Cafeteria      | Rankin County - 12:00      |
| Lucedale - 12:00           |                         | Richton - 12:00                 | Rankin Co. Med. Ctr. Annex |
| MS Gulf Coast Community    |                         | Magnolia Restaurant             | Slidell, LA - 12:00        |
| College Cafeteria          |                         | Waynesboro - 12:00              | Pinewood Country Club      |
| Petal - 12:00              |                         | Western Sizzlin                 |                            |
| Civic Center               |                         | Prentiss - 12:00                |                            |
| South Hinds County - 12:00 |                         | Country Fisherman               |                            |
| BoDons Catfish & Seafood   |                         |                                 |                            |