

## **MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

### **Minutes of Meeting of Feb. 5, 2008**

- President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting and offered the invocation.
- A.D. Hunt led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Kristina Gould welcomed today's guest. Chris Inman was a guest of Jeff Bowman.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Freddy reminded members of the food festival event scheduled for April 18 as a part of the District Conference. Volunteers will be needed to assist and all club members are encouraged to attend the food fest and the conference. He also reminded members of the Night in Italy event coming up on April 22. Tickets will be distributed in the near future.
- 2) Francis Farmer conducted the monthly auction. Just over \$91 was raised for the Rotary foundation.

## **LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Hayden Mitchell introduced the guest speaker, Corky Palmer, head baseball coach for the University of Southern Mississippi. Corky is a Hattiesburg naïve and played baseball at USM under Pete Taylor.

Corky reported that the new press box and suites construction project is complete and will be used this season. The new addition to the stadium will allow the team to host almost any tournament the team is capable of participating in. The suites have already been sold and there are already four on the waiting list for the next available. Additionally, the 1,600 chair-back seating section has been completely sold. The

University is considering terracing the section behind the left field section and having additional seating available there by the 2009 season. Another major improvement that has been made at the stadium is a re-lighting of the entire park. The lighting levels are now such that the team can host a televised game. In fact, Corky reports that perhaps one or two USM games will be televised this season.

Corky reports that the 2008 team consists of older players and he is anticipating a very exciting season. A problem from last season, according to Corky, was team hitting. That problem is being addressed with the team this year. He reports that the team has signed a new power hitter that is demonstrating more hitting power than any player he has seen in recent years.

As for recruiting, Corky confirms that he looks first to local players for the talent that he needs to complete his roster. He continues to feel strongly about using the USM baseball program as a tool for area baseball talents.

The USM baseball team players and coaches have made the commitment to do the best they can to make this an exciting season for the Hattiesburg area.

## **THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM**

Hayden Mitchell will introduce the guest speaker, Larry Fedora, the new head coach at USM.

When Larry Fedora held up his gold no. 1 jersey during his introduction as the 18<sup>th</sup> head football coach in the 91<sup>st</sup> year of the Southern Miss program on Dec. 12, 2007, there was a sense from the Golden Eagle

faithful that something big was on the horizon.

Fedora, 45, came to Southern Miss after spending the last three seasons as the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State where the Cowboys have been in the top 10 in rushing yards per game and in the top 20 in total offense per game in each of the last two seasons. During Fedora's three-year tenure at OSU, the Cowboys raised their rushing, passing and total offensive yards each year that he was there. In 2006, the cowboys were one of just two teams – the other being Boise State – to average over 200 yards both rushing and passing.

Prior to his stint at Oklahoma State, Fedora spent three seasons at Florida where he served in the role of run game coordinator in 2002, perimeter game coordinator in 2003 and offensive coordinator in 2004. He also coached the running backs and receivers during those three seasons.

Before going to Florida, Fedora was the offensive coordinator at Middle Tennessee from 1999-2001. In three seasons at MTSU, Fedora's offense averaged 424 yards of total offense, 181 rushing yards and 31 points per game. With Fedora as their offensive coordinator, the Blue Raiders broke 43 school records over three seasons.

Fedora began his coaching career as a graduate assistant (1986) at Austin College. He then served as an assistant coach at Garland (Texas) High School from 1987-90.

Fedora then got back into the collegiate ranks in 1991, serving as the tight ends, wide receivers and running backs coach at Baylor University, where he stayed until 1996. He then spent two seasons (1997-98) at Air Force coaching the passing game and wide receivers.

As a player, Fedora was a wide receiver at Austin College (1981-84). He helped lead the Kangaroos to the NAIA championship in 1981. He earned academic All-American honors in 1983, and honorable mention All-American in both 1983 and 1984.

Born on Sept. 10, 1982, in College Station, Texas, Fedora is a 1985 graduate of Austin College, where he also received his Masters degree in 1986. He is married to the former Christi wood, and the couple has one son, Dillon, **and** three daughters, Sydney, Peyton, and Hallie.

**See the hand-out on the table what peers have had to say about Larry Fedora, including Grant Teaff, Mike Gundy, T. Boone Pickens, Urban Meyer, and Fischer DeBerry.**

## **Rotary International News**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Rotary leaders and praised Rotarians for their commitment to polio eradication during a recent visit to Chicago.

“Rotary International has led a worldwide campaign to wipe out polio. Sometime soon, their work will be done. Polio will be history, like smallpox,” Ban said in an address to the Economic Club of Chicago on 7 February.

At a private ceremony earlier in the day, Rotary International President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson presented Ban with the Rotary International Award of Honor in recognition of his support for polio eradication and his dedication to furthering peace and cross-cultural understanding. Past recipients of this high Rotary honor include Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Nelson Mandela.

The secretary-general also met with Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott, RI General Secretary Edwin H. Futa, and RI President-elect Dong Kurn Lee. Ban and Lee, both South Koreans, are friends.

Rotary's close ties with the UN date back to 1945 when 49 Rotarians helped draft the UN charter. Rotary continues to collaborate with the UN through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership with the United Nation's Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **Wired for Success by Joseph Derr**

Gilberto Mendes Oliveira is limping, but he makes his way steadily up the hilly path, chatting with everyone he meets. He's surrounded by a pack of kids, one of whom

spots a monkey in a tree. "We used to catch those when I was their age," Oliveira says. "That's how I got electrocuted."

Oliveira was nine years old when it happened. Catching and selling wild animals was a way to support his family. One afternoon, he climbed a tree near his home in rural Brazil and thrust a bamboo rod through the leaves, hoping to uncover a monkey. Instead, he hit an electrical transmitter, absorbing enough voltage to kill an adult. Oliveira survived, but for the next five years, he was confined to a hospital, 120 miles from his family and friends. Doctors had to amputate a leg and an arm. But he didn't let that slow him down.

In fact, he grew up to become a successful manager for the same energy company whose transmitter nearly killed him. Now a member of the Rotary Club of Betim, he became a Rotarian in late 2005. His first project: training young Brazilians how to handle high voltages – not as victims, but as electricians.

**Editor: Gary Garner**