

## MEET TODAY'S SPEAKER

Robert D. Pierce, II  
Vice President for Advancement / The University of Southern Mississippi

While serving an almost twelve-year tenure as the Executive Director of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, Pierce was named the Acting Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the USM Foundation by University President Martha Saunders in January 2010. Three months later, President Saunders announced the appointment would become permanent on July 1, 2010.

As the Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the USM Foundation, Pierce oversees the day-to-day operations of the USM Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-for-profit corporation chartered to receive charitable gifts on behalf of The University of Southern Mississippi. He also has management responsibility for the Executive Director of the Southern Miss Alumni Association. Together, the USM Foundation and Southern Miss Alumni Association staffs form the Advancement Division of the University.

During his short time as the Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the USM Foundation, Pierce oversaw the relocation of the Foundation staff from the Honor House to the Trent Lott Center and restructured the development staff from a constituency-based format to a centralized, initiative-based model. This resulted in the fundraising efforts of the USM Foundation being focused on major, top priority initiatives as selected by the University's Executive Cabinet and endorsed by the USM Foundation's Board of Directors.

As the Executive Director of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, a position he held from October 1998 until June 2010, Pierce led the effort to generate \$3 million in private support for the restoration and expansion of the Ogletree House, the home of the Alumni Association since 1976. The campaign finished with \$3.26 million in contributions representing 109 percent of the original campaign goal. In June 2010, the Association successfully completed its "20,000 in 2010" membership campaign setting a new record for alumni participation with 21,088 members.

Other major projects and initiatives for the Association during Pierce's tenure included the implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan; a focus on improving the image of the organization through branding efforts; initiating the Official Ring program and Legacy Scholarships; upgrading the Association's magazine that was recognized as the best collegiate magazine in the state of Mississippi in 2009; creating The Drawl (a manual on the history and traditions of the University); and assisting with the University's Centennial Celebration.

Pierce, a native of Petal, Mississippi, and 1991 Southern Miss graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with honors. He completed a master's degree in advertising and public relations at the University of Alabama in 2003 and was selected as the program's outstanding graduate student that year. He was selected as the Southern Miss 1991 Sales and Marketing Management Outstanding Student upon his graduation and was one of seven students inducted into the University's Hall of Fame. He also served as president of Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Interfraternity Council, Order of Omega, the Student Eagle Club, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Pierce supports his alma mater financially through contributions to the USM Foundation (academic support) and the Southern Miss Eagle Club (athletic support). He has also been a Life Member of the Alumni Association since 1991. Pierce is a former member of the Board of Directors and former Chair of the Marketing & Public Relations Committee for the Greater Pine Belt Community Foundation. In early 2008, Pierce was recognized as one of the "Top 40 Under 40" business leaders in the state of Mississippi by the Mississippi Business Journal.

He is married to the former Kristi Muench of Ocean Springs, also a Southern Miss graduate and fellow employee of the University. They have two children, Sarah and Drew.



# Spokes

February 28, 2012  
www.hattiesburgrotary.com

District 6840

Club Number 04003

Organized 1918

**ROTARY YEAR**  
2011-2012

### OFFICERS

ROBERT CUMMINGS  
*President*

MAURA MCLAUGHLIN  
*President-Elect*

PATRICK WARD  
*Vice-President*

SCOTT HUMMEL  
*Secretary – Treasurer*

LAMAR EVANS  
*Executive Secretary*

SEAN PRIEBE  
*Sergeant-at-arms*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaclyn Adams  
Wes Brooks  
Bill MacLauchlan  
James Duncan  
Dan Kibodeaux  
Lucy Parkman  
Jennifer Payne  
Janice Touchstone

*Past President:*  
Bill McLeod

**SPOKES Editor**  
Aime Spears  
aspears@whlt.com

*Official Newsletter of the*

## ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

A CENTURY OF SERVICE



A NEW CENTURY OF SUCCESS

**“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”**

## MINUTES FROM 2/21/12

President Robert Cummings, Jr. presided over the meeting.

Thanks to Conrad Welker, who gave today's invocation. Also, thanks to Dan Kibodeaux who led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert then led members in the Four Way Test. Thanks to Sean Priebe who served as today's greeter.

Sean then introduced today's guests. Melissa Phelps was a guest of Maura McLaughlin. Curtis Smith was a guest of Bill McLeod. Susan Hoda was a guest of Audra Cummings and Francis Farmer was a guest of Bob Riley.

Robert then called Scott Hummel forward to report on his recent India mission trip. Scott reported that he had the opportunity to preach at the church William Carey started as a foreign missionary. Students that accompanied Scott worked with local students on a variety of projects. Scott noted that many changes have occurred in India since William Carey first began his work there. Carey opposed the cast system, which is now non-existent. There was a chicken pox outbreak while the group was there and they all had to be vaccinated. During that process it was reported that India had no new cases of polio reported last year and when it was realized that Scott was a Rotarian much recognition and praise was received for the Polio Plus project.

Robert announced that the February board meeting will take place on the campus of William Carey University and is scheduled for Monday, February 27th. The meeting will take place in the President's dining room and will begin at 6 p.m. If you are interested in eating prior to the meeting meal service will begin at 5:30. The meal cost is \$6.00.

Scott filled in for Wes Brooks and introduced today's speaker, Susan Hollandsworth with the Nature Conservancy.

Susan reported that the Nature Conservancy began in 1951. The organization's mission is to protect nature and preserve life. They try and fulfill that mission by conserving everything in nature that supports life. Today the organization is active in thirty countries and all fifty states here in the United States. The Mississippi chapter began in 1989 and has approximately 2,500 members. The Nature Conservancy staff numbers approximately 3,000 and about 75% of those are scientists.

The three primary focus areas of the Conservancy are Marine, Fresh Water and Reforestation. In Mississippi they focus on our Southern forests and specifically on protecting the Long Leaf Pine habitats. They also work on a number of projects along the Mississippi River, protecting freshwater habitats. On the gulf coast they are actively involved in trying to restore the oyster shelves that were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The Nature Conservancy is supported by individual memberships, mitigation banks, corporate support and grants, In-kind partner donations, volunteer support and education outreach.

If you'd like more information visit [www.nature.org/mississippi](http://www.nature.org/mississippi).

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Bob Pierce, Vice Pres. for Advancement &amp; Exec. Dir. USM Foundation</b>
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>HubFest</b>
<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>Night In Italy - (All members help will be needed for this event)</b>

## NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

### India is no longer polio endemic

By Dan Nixon  
Rotary International News -- 27 February 2012

The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. Ghulam Nabi Azad, India's minister of Health and Family Welfare, made the announcement at the [Polio Summit 2012](#) in New Delhi on 25 February. Azad said that he had been informed of WHO's action by its director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan.



The All India End Polio Now Road Show, organized by District 3201 (parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu), inspired support for polio eradication in India, Nepal, and Bhutan in late 2011 and early 2012. Photo courtesy of District 3201

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said Indian

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the summit, which was organized by the government of India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease. Polio remains endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

[Read more at Rotary.org](#)

### READING BETWEEN THE LIONS LITERACY PROGRAM

Volunteers needed each week on **Tuesday or Friday** mornings at 9:30 to read children's books to Pre-Schoolers. Read for about 20-30 minutes.



The Family Y -  
Veterans Memorial Blvd.  
601-268-0808  
Call Dan Kibodeaux or  
sign up at lunch meetings  
or email  
[dan@unitedwaysems.org](mailto:dan@unitedwaysems.org)  
call **601-545-7141**

### March Reading Volunteers Needed!

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
Friday, 3/2 9:30am		
Tuesday, 3/6 9:30am		
Friday, 3/9 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams	
Tuesday, 3/13 9:30am		
Friday, 3/16 9:30am		
Tuesday, 3/20 9:30am		
Friday, 3/23 9:30am	Jaclyn Adams	
Tuesday, 3/27 9:30am		
Friday, 3/30 9:30am		