

JANUARY 5, 2016



SPOKES

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HATTIESBURG

Tuesday, December 15, members of the Rotary Club of Hattiesburg were guests of Dean Faye Gilbert and J.T. Tisdale at The University of Southern Mississippi College of Business.



MINUTES: DECEMBER 15, 2015

President Sean Priebe presided over the meeting. Thanks to Conrad Welker who gave the invocation and to Mary Cromartie who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thanks to Tracie Fowler who served as our greeter today.

Wes Brooks sat in for Jaclyn Adams and introduced Clai' Meador, Joe Meador's guest.

Sean thanked J.T. Tisdale for putting today's meeting together and to Faye Gilbert for extending the very generous invitation for our club to meet and tour the Scianna Hall.

Sean reminded members that today's meeting is the last Rotary club meeting of the year. We will meet back at Southern Oaks on January 5 and January 12. The January 19 meeting will be held at Cotton Blues.

J.T. then welcomed us to Scianna Hall. This structure has changed the face of the University of Southern Mississippi on Highway 49. It has also changed the culture of Business College students at USM. With the new facility students can stay in the building all day. Previously they had to leave the business school if they had a break between classes because there was no place else for them to go. Scianna Hall offers 10 group study rooms, a creative learning lab and a full service food area. Students can also study while they exercise on the jogging machine. There are many common areas students can gather to visit or study.

Scianna Hall is a \$34 million project. More than \$10 million was raised from donors through the Building Better Business Campaign. It is a 94,000 square foot facility which is about twice the size of the old Joseph Green Hall. The new Hall offers 14 classrooms and a 285-seat auditorium along with a testing center.

The technology in each meeting room is the same so students and teachers only have to learn one system. The Hall has 18 LED smartboards, 12 LED digital signs, 7 touchscreen monitors and a financial services center that has a Bloomberg terminal. Classrooms also have the ability for distance learning. Scianna Hall is the most technologically advanced building at USM.

The 2,000 College of Business students now have the tools they need to excel in the classroom and to be prepared to become the qualified leaders in business.

Thanks again to J.T. for hosting today's meeting and for the tour of Scianna Hall.

**Minutes provided by:
Lamar Evans, Executive Secretary**



Our Guest

Samantha McCain. APR

Samantha is an accredited public relations professional and has lived in the Hub City since 2005 when she began her journey at Southern Miss. After graduating with two degrees from her alma mater, she ventured out into the working world – spending time at the Red Cross of Mississippi, Hattiesburg Clinic, and an award-winning advertising agency, The Focus Group. Recently, she decided to leave the hustle and bustle of agency life to spend time with some pretty amazing children. She now serves as the communications coordinator at The Children's Center for Communication and Development and handles all day-to-day public relations duties, promotion of events, grant writing, and other duties as assigned – which can sometimes mean holding a hand or playing on the playground!

In addition to her daily job responsibilities, she is actively involved in the community and serves on several local and statewide boards. Samantha also writes a biweekly column for The Hattiesburg Post and is a sought-after speaker for the marketing and public relations industry.



UPCOMING

JANUARY 8—PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY GALA

Great Southern Club, Gulfport, MS. Registration for this event is \$45 per person. Use this link to register for this event: <http://bit.ly/1YC8UBg>

JANUARY 9, 2016—MID-YEAR CHECKUP

This year the Mid-Year Checkup will focus on two-minute presentations by district clubs highlighting their achievements over the past six months. Use this link to register for this event—<http://bit.ly/1Q6YRAV>

JANUARY 12—DICKIE SCRUGGS

JANUARY 19—DR. JACOB GRAHAM

JANUARY 26—RYAN KELLY

FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE CALGARY 2016

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016

For Mardi Gras 2016, D6840 will be hosting a delegation of Canadians from the Calgary area, D5360. The 6 couples selected to participate were chosen from a group of 24 who expressed interest in coming to The Big Easy!!

The plan is for the group to arrive on Tuesday, February 2, with the actual program beginning on Wednesday, February 3, and until their departure on Monday, February 15. Since Mardi Gras is February 9, logistics and lodging are both challenging, especially for such a large group. I am very interested in lodging possibilities near the St. Charles Avenue Parade Route around “Mardi Gras Weekend,” as well as lodging with Rotarians along the Gulf Coast (especially between Bay St. Louis and Biloxi) from February 10-15. Please let me know!

THURSDAY, JULY 7 TO TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

D6840 Rotarians are invited to D5360, a special part of Canada, to enjoy the Calgary Stampede, the beautiful Canadian Rockies, and other activities during the early part of our HOT July!

I already have a growing list of D6840 Rotarians who are interested in visiting the cool Canadian Rockies in July, 2016! Please let me know if you would like to get on the list. The maximum number of visitors is 12.

Both in Calgary and in New Orleans, the plans are basically home-stays with Rotarians, “Bed & Breakfast style.” Guests may not need to have their own rental cars/vans. Visitors will be responsible for their personal expenses and meals when they are on their own.

Karen Babin, 2016 Friendship Exchange Coordinator for D6840

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