



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

February 17
Robert Smalley
*Mike Babb & Dennis
Mock - SPLOST Initiative*

Upcoming Meetings:

February 24
Archana Srivastava
*Dr. Steven G. Wassilak -
Center of Disease Control*

March 3
Director Program
*Pat Frawley, CEO of
Community and Southern
Bank*

March 10
Sherwood Jones, III

March 17
Kelly Jones
*Hamilton NICU / March of
Dimes - Jessica
Truelove, Dr. Liz
Kennedy & Dr. Vic
Thomas*

Dr. Bill Underwood, President of Mercer University

By: Kathryn Sellers



Dr. Bill Underwood, President of Mercer University was introduced by Bill Ireland whose daughter will soon graduate from Mercer.

Dr. Underwood, who has been at Mercer for nine years, spoke about Mercer's close connection with a Vietnamese professor who has, along with his students, been responsible for helping to invent/create advanced prosthetics for the thousands of Vietnamese people who are maimed each year by the remaining land mines and booby traps. Most are pitifully poor (average per capita income \$1,000/year or less) and prosthetics are not even in their dreams. This professor and students created adjustable sockets to fit anyone, leg mechanisms and flexing feet that make the patients much more comfortable. They are light weight, durable and cost just about \$200 rather than the former cost of \$10,000 and up. Mercer Bio Med students now produce these prosthetics and have the privilege to travel to Viet Nam, a truly inspiring task and travel opportunity.

Underwood spoke about the normal complaints about college education now in the media and debunked them with his own facts and theories:

"Graduation rates are lower": Because these reported figures are only those who enter and graduate from the same college, they are misunderstood and are an incomplete picture. He says graduation rates are actually going up and are at the highest level in 75 years.

"Most take more than four years for graduation": Fewer than half graduate from the school where they first registered, but the four year graduates are the highest since tracking began.

"College costs are going up": The average net tuition and fees for a public college is \$3,129, almost a constant number. And private college costs are constant when adjusted by scholarships.

"There is a student debt crisis": There are many more students, therefore more aggregate debt. However individual debt is lower than 1992: fewer than 2% have \$100,000 in debt. The average debt is less than \$30,000 and one third have no debt. Mercer concentrates on counseling students about debt and their alternatives.

Blackwood feels that the college experiences are every bit as important as the academics and feels that every student must be in co-curricular activities such as athletics. They learn lessons that supplement academics like team building, responsibility, perseverance

and self-discipline. Most importantly they build community!

Club Officers:

- David Aft**
President
- Jason Parker**
President-Elect
- Frank M. Hogshead**
Secretary, Treasurer
- Chuck Dobbins**
Immediate Past President
- Bruce Satterfield**
Club Administration Chair
- Kathryn Sellers**
Public Image Chair
- Rick Cobb**
Membership Chair
- Ty Ross**
Community Service Chair
- Scott Rhoden**
Youth Service Chair
- Kevin Brunson**
Vocational Service Chair
- Archana Srivastava**
International Service Chair
- Foundation Chair



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Johnson, Larry Alan (LARRY)

Birthday

18-Feb

Partner Birthdays

No Partner birthdays this period.

Member Name

Birthday

Member Anniversaries

Elliott, Judy M. (JUDY)
 Ross, Tyson J (TY)
 Satterfield, Bruce A. (BRUCE)
 Miller, Charles Dalton (CHARLES)

Start Date

20-Feb-07
 23-Feb-10
 23-Feb-10
 23-Feb-10

Years

8
 5
 5
 5

Wedding Anniversaries

Chandler, Robert M. (ROBERT)

Partner's Name

Susan

Anniversary

23-Feb

Years

41

Four Way Test

