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The Rotary Reader

Presidential Citation Award Winner for 20 years

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FOUNDATION HONOREE CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE POOR

For her work to mitigate extreme poverty around the world, Susan Davis has received many honors. But the 2015-16 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award has special significance.

“It feels like a circle of completion,” says Davis, who was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in 1980-81, doing graduate studies in international relations at Oxford University in England. “Rotary invested in me when I was young, and now is celebrating the harvest.”

A decade ago, Davis co-founded [BRAC USA](#) to advance the mission of BRAC -- Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee -- the world's largest nongovernmental development organization, which was founded after Bangladesh's partition from Pakistan in the 1970s. The U.S. branch is dedicated to fighting poverty and to creating opportunities for the poor in Africa and elsewhere.

Fulfilling that mission hasn't been easy. Davis' work has been disrupted by floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and war. Even worse was the sudden and deadly Ebola epidemic in 2014 in West Africa.

“I wasn't sure how to protect our staff and clients and accompany these vulnerable communities out of this tragic situation,” says Davis, who served as BRAC USA's president and chief executive officer until her departure this month. She quickly contacted Ebola experts and connected them with BRAC USA's representatives in affected countries. “I lost sleep and cried with each death,” she says.

Two of those deaths were particularly painful. Ophilia Dede, a BRAC credit officer in Liberia, and her husband succumbed to the virus, leaving behind a little girl. Davis helped set up a scholarship fund for her education.

But she doesn't allow such painful experiences to deter her.

“The urgency of the need and the tangible opportunities to make a difference keep me going,” she says. “And I have been blessed by seeing two big ideas — microfinance and social entrepreneurship — take root globally.”

From 1987 to 1991, Davis championed microfinance while working as a program officer with the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh. She developed a consortium that raised \$175 million, increasing the availability of microloans in Bangladeshi villages to 44 percent from 5 percent, she says. Though debates endure over how much credit microfinance should receive for the country's progress, conditions in Bangladesh have improved significantly: According to *The Economist*, life expectancy in the country rose from 59 to 69 during a 20-year span ending in 2010.

Davis also is co-author, with journalist David Bornstein, of the book “Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know.” And she is involved with Ashoka, a nonprofit organization that supports social entrepreneurship; as a director, she oversaw its expansion to the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

A resident of New York City, Davis is widely recognized for her work in the field of international development. She was appointed to the board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnership in 2012, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and has served on the boards of the Grameen Foundation, the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund, and the African Women's Development Fund USA.

Davis has come a long way from the small town in southwest Louisiana, USA, where she grew up. The Rotary scholarship provided her first opportunity to live abroad. She believes that her Oxford experience allowed her to be taken seriously, and credits it with helping her land a job with the Ford Foundation.

Perhaps most importantly, says Davis, that Rotary-sponsored year gave her an entirely new perspective on power and privilege.

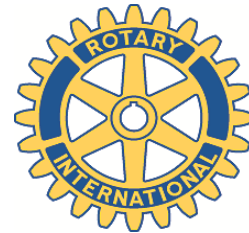
THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

THE ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST

- 1) Is it the truth?
- 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Upcoming Speakers

January 20th: Ted Litschauer - FWB Police Chief

January 27th: Randolph Russel - American history and civics

February 3rd:

ROTARIANS WITH BIRTHDAYS

Today in History

1896

H. L. Smith took the first [X-ray](#) photograph. It was a hand with a bullet in it.

1915

The U.S. House of Representatives rejected a proposal to give [women the right to vote](#).

1932

[Hattie W. Caraway](#), a democrat from [Arkansas](#) became the first woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate.

1991

A divided Congress gave President [Bush](#) the go-ahead on the [Persian Gulf War](#).

1998

Nineteen European countries signed an agreement banning human [cloning](#).

2010

Haiti is dealt a catastrophic blow when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital. It is the region's worst earthquake in 200 years. The number of fatalities were between 46,000 and 85,000 people.

Rotary Roster

Bill Alexson
Military Operations Commander

Robert Anderson, SM
CPA

Jack Arthur, PHF SM
Insurance

Spencer Barnes, SM
Employee Benefits

James Bass, SM
Funeral Director

Neal Bern SM
Insurance

Debbie Bodenstine, PHF SM Roty
Economic Development

Ann Boynton SM
Property Management

Joseph Brewster, PHF SM
Cable Television

Frank Brutt, PHF SM
County Planning

Mack Busbee
County Government

Tom Butcher
Honorary Member

Kevin Cagle, SM
Office Machines

Gerry Chalker, (8) PHF SM *
Pension Administration

Andy Corbin, PHF SM RotY *
Electronics Mfg.

George Dorris, PHF SM
Dentistry

Jeff Dunford
Banker

JT Edwards, PHF SM RotY
Landscaping Owner

Dan Empson
Honorary

Cliff Ennis
Business IT Management

Ralph Fallin, (34) PHF SM RotY
Dairy Products

Bob Fowner, PHF SM
Association Manager

Cindy Frakes, SM
Realtor

Tony Gilligan, PHF SM
Government Contractor

Ben Gordon
Attorney

Ron Grissom, SM
Utilities

Haydon Grubbs, PHF SM
Education

Chad Hamilton, PHF SM
CPA

Ross Hamilton
Education- College

Sallie Hardy, PHF SM
Commercial Properties

Tom Hayes, PHF SM
Financial Services

Jody Henderson, PHF SM *
Accounting/Auditing

Mitzi Henley, SM
Retail Shopping Center

Ken Hinrichs
Non-Profit Administration

Jeff Hooton, PHF SM
Commercial Lending

Stephanie Jones SM
Banking

Laura Kirby (2)
Business Development

Richard Kunkel, PHF SM
Education

Chuck Landers, PHF SM
Certified Public Accountant

Ross LeBlanc, SM
Certified Public Accountant

Tony Leonard, PHF SM **
Retail/Musical Instruments

John Linn, PHF SM
Kitchens-Retail

Ted Litschauer, PHF SM
Public Safety

Jamey Mattern, PHF SM
Architect

David Macdonald PHF SM **
Shopping Center Manager

Julie McNabb, SM
Developmental Disabilities

Joe Meyer, SM
Retail/Computers

David O. Miller, (13) PHF SM
Developmental Disabilities

John Morgan, PHF SM*
Computer Engineer

Matthew Morgan, SM
Electrical Engineer

Dan Nelson, PHF SM
Restaurant/Fast Food

Michelle Nicholson, SM
Communications

Susan Page, SM
Professional Counseling

Roger Peadro, PHF SM RotY*
Pastor

Mary Plummer, PHF SM
Real Estate Sales

Lyndon Poff, PHF SM RotY
Paint & Body Shop

Diane Poff
Paint & Body Shop

Jan Pooley, (9) PHF SM RotY*
Department Store

Charlie Potts, PHF SM*
Jeweler

Kathy Pritchard, PHF SM
Commercial Banking

Fred Pryor, PHF SM RotY*
Utility Service-Gas

Dusty Ricketts, SM
News Media

Katie Sharon, SM
Banking

Eulice Shelley, PHF SM*
Moving & Storage

Scott Smitt, PHF SM*
Chiropractor

Whitney Smith, SM
Attorney

Allan Stearns, PHF SM*
Travel Agent

Rick Stevens, PHF SM RotY*
Surge Suppression Systems

Randy Stokes, PHF SM*
Architecture

Kent Tinsley, SM
Commercial Banking

Herb Tinsley, PHF SM RotY*
Savings & Loan Mgmt.

Forrest Townsend, PHF SM RotY*
Veterinarian

Alex Trum, PHF SM
Orthodontist Retired

Matt Turpin, SM
Certified Public Accountant

John Vaughan, PHF SM
Consultant

Aaron Webber, SM
Condo Management

Charles West, PHF SM
Investment Broker

Lisa Williams
Utilities

Jean Woo, PHF SM
Dentist

Jack Yeiser, PHF SM
Mortgage Broker

Russ Youngblood PHF SM**
Psychologist

Interested in joining Rotary?

Please contact our Membership Chairs
Laura Kirby LKirby@Landrumcompanies.com
or

Andy Corbin ajc@tslinc.com

PH: Paul Harris Fellows

SM: PH Sustaining Members

* FWB Club Past Presidents

** Past President Other Clubs

RotY: FWB Rotarian of the Year

Members in purple have perfect attendance.

Don't forget that you can make up missed meetings at neighboring clubs. They include: Crestview: 12 p.m. Wednesday at Ryan's
Destin: 7:15 a.m. Tuesday at Rutherford's at Regatta Bay
DeFuniak Springs: 12 p.m. Wednesday at McLain's Family Steakhouse
Mid-Bay: 7 a.m. Wednesday at Bluewater Bay Golf Club
Navarre: 12 p.m. Thursday at Tuscan Grill at Hidden Creek
Niceville: 12 p.m. Thursday at Northwest Florida State College Building K
South Walton: 7:30 a.m. Thursday at Embassy Suites