



March 25, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary

In This Issue

Upcoming Events and Speakers

April 3
Clyde Partin
Professor, Emory School of Medicine

April 10
Stuart Zola
Neuroscientist
Woodruff Health Sciences

April 17
Grant Awards Day

April 24
No meeting due to District Conference on Jekyll Island

May 1
Molly Fortune
Fox Theater

Greetings!

The First Thursday (aka Thirsty Thursday) will be held at The Cask Room - Wine Bar 5:30-7:30 pm on Thursday



April 2nd. This cozy new establishment is located at 900 W College Avenue directly behind Avelino's Pizza and parking is available directly in front as well as street parking. Please come enjoy a tasting! [The Cask Room](#)

Register now for Jekyll!

... And this year's Region 6900 conference on April 24-26, organized by Joe Kusmik. Our goal is for 25 members to attend, and we already have commitments from almost half that number of members.

[See a video on how to register here.](#)

Our Speaker This Week, March 27

John Stephenson, CEO
College Football Hall of Fame

May 7
Derby Day at the
Solarium

May 8
No meeting
due to Derby Day at
the Solarium

Decatur Rotary Club Officers

President:
Peter Michelson

President-Elect:
Scott Thompson

Past President:
Robert Brown

Secretary:
Vee Nelson

Treasurer:
Drew Robinson

Sergeant-at-Arms:
Mark Burnette

The Four-Way Test

In everything that
we think, say or
do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all
concerned?

Will it build
GOODWILL
and
BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be



John was named president and CEO of Atlanta Hall Management, Inc. in 2011 and assumed the role permanently in 2013. As president and CEO of Atlanta Hall Management, Stephenson is responsible for guiding the broader efforts to construct, develop and operate the 94,000-square foot attraction known as the College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan

Experience in downtown Atlanta.

Find out more about the College Football Hall of Fame [here](#).

Prior to joining the Hall, Stephenson was a corporate attorney at the law firm of Troutman Sanders. He joined the firm in 2000 and was named a partner in 2007. Having served as counsel to a number of clients in the hospitality, sports, and entertainment industry, Stephenson was retained by project organizers in 2009 to assist with efforts to move the College Football Hall of Fame to Atlanta from its previous home in South Bend, Indiana.

Stephenson was born and raised in Atlanta. He holds undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia.

Last Week's Speaker: Dr. John Cressler / Georgia Tech

Introduction by Doug Robinson



Dr. John Cressler, right, is the Schlumberger Chair and Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech, as well as an author of historical fiction. He received a B.S. degree in physics from Georgia Tech before joining the research staff at IBM.

BENEFICIAL
to all concerned?

[For more information
visit our website.](#)

[Check our club's
calendar](#)

[District 6900 Website](#)



Friday
Lunches
catered by
Oakhurst Market

Good to Know

Meeting Place
Old Courthouse,
Downtown Decatur
101 E. Court Square

Meeting Time
Every Friday
12:15 to 1:30 pm

Our Club
#4132, District #6900.

Mailing Address
Decatur Rotary Club, PO
Box 845
Decatur, GA 30031

Dues & Donations
\$275 quarterly dues

While at IBM, he received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in applied physics at Columbia University.

Dr. Cressler then decided that his true calling was teaching and mentoring young people, so he joined the faculty of Auburn University, then returned to Georgia Tech to teach in 2002. He has received prestigious teaching awards from Georgia Tech and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). During his career, he has published numerous papers and five non-fiction books regarding the technical aspects of silicon-based microelectronic devices and emerging 21st century communications systems. His personal interests include new endeavors, such as the new Science, Engineering and Religion course he teaches, and ministering to youth, prison inmates and homeless individuals.

He has recently become enamored with writing historical fiction, has published two novels, and is writing a third. He has upcoming presentations of his historical novels in Cordoba, Spain and Istanbul.

Dr. Cressler's presentation: A summary

Dr. Cressler asked us to step back about 1,000 years to Muslim (Moorish) Spain, in the southern region called al-Andalus, to allow that culture to teach us about peace. Cordoba in this region was Europe's largest, richest and cleanest city, with a population that included Muslims, Christians and Jews. Despite the apparent diversity of religions, there were few conflicts in Cordoba during this period. Instead, it had the world's largest library, a water and sewer system, hospitals, and a population that revered knowledge and literature. Religious tolerance and social mobility were the norm, diversity was embraced, and the cultures and customs of the diverse population were interwoven.

It was an amazing era of peaceful coexistence (convivencia) among the three major religions, and this is the time and setting for Dr. Cressler's historical fiction novels. History is intertwined with both fictional and historical characters, showing that peaceful coexistence is possible and that love has the power to transform the human heart.

His first novel in the Anthems of al-Andalus series, Emeralds of the Alhambra, was released in 2013. His second novel in the series, Shadows in the Shining City, was released in 2014. Book three, Fortune's Lament, will be published in 2016.

\$700 annual donation

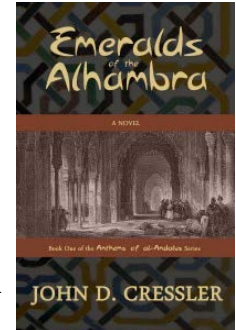
Newsletter
Submissions
Deadline is Monday at
noon. Send your news to
Doug Robinson, [doug@
eagleeyebooks.com](mailto:doug@eagleeyebooks.com)

Find out more about John Cressler [here](#).

President Peter presented the book, Emeralds of the Alhambra, to be placed in the DeKalb Library System in honor of John Cressler's visit.

If you missed the opportunity to purchase Dr. Cressler's novels, Doug Robinson has signed copies available at Eagle Eye Book Shop.

See Rotary clubs in the Costa del Sol region [here](#).



News and Announcements

Invocation

Given by James Brewer-Calvert

Family of Rotary
presented by Todd
Speed



Drew Robinson is the recipient of the annual RISE award, presented to him by his company, CBRE, Inc. Congratulations Drew!

Visiting Rotarians
None this week.

Guests/Hosts:
Presented by President Peter

Rob Stroud, guest and son of Bob Stroud
John Hanson, guest of Aaron Weil
Jasmine Okafor and Preston Etheridge, guests of the club,
presented by Rick Garnitz

Special Announcements

Dean Crownover reminded us of the May 7 Derby Day annual club fundraiser at the Solarium in Oakhurst. Dean will make this evening even more enjoyable as he serves as the auctioneer!



The committee welcomes donations, especially:

- A beach house vacation for 4-7 days.
- A chef experience, whether a catered dinner in your home or a chef's restaurant package.

Contact Dean with your donations and plan to attend!



President Peter reminded us that there will be no meeting on May 8, since we will have enjoyed fellowship together the night before at the fundraiser.

Dues News from Drew Robinson, club treasurer
Invoices for First Quarter were emailed to all members on February 15 and are being accepted now. Dues are \$275 per quarter if paying by check; a 3% processing fee will be applied if paying by credit card via the website.

Members will still receive their invoices by mail or email. Members can also pay directly online through the Rotary 6900 website.

Here are instructions for first-time log in for the district 6900 site:

Go to www.rotary6900.org.

1. Click the login link in the main menu.
2. Click the Forgot Password? link.
3. Put in your username and email address.
4. Click Submit.
5. You will receive an email with a reset link (be sure to check your spam folder if you don't get it in your inbox within a minute or two).
6. Click the reset link and you should be taken to the reset password screen of the website
7. Enter your username and the password you want to use (at least eight characters: 1 upper, 1 lower, 1 digit and one special). You will need to enter it twice.
8. Click submit.
9. You should get a message that your password has been reset successfully.
10. Click the login link.
11. Login with your new password.
12. Once logged in, you should see your name and your club in the center of the blue banner at the top.

If it doesn't work, [contact our webmaster](#). If your invoice needs to be corrected or you have any questions hit notify me at andrew.robinson@cbre.com

Special Thanks to . . .

Betty Spiker, our reporter this week.
Great job!



Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee