

Rotary  
Little Rock



## Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

11:30 AM Buffet Opens | 12:00 Noon Meeting Begins  
Great Hall, Clinton Center

### University of Central Arkansas (UCA) New Business Model Houston D. Davis, Ph.D., President

In Fall 2024, the University of Central Arkansas welcomed one of its largest freshman classes to date, with 2,183 students—a remarkable 26% increase from the previous year. This growth is largely attributed to the launch of an exciting new initiative aimed at making higher education more accessible for Arkansas students. The *UCA Commitment* program, which officially began in Fall 2024, is a groundbreaking financial initiative designed to provide a debt-free pathway for incoming Arkansas freshmen from households earning up to \$100,000. By opting into the program, students have their tuition and fees fully covered, helping to ease the financial burden of attending college.

Join us as UCA President Houston Davis discusses the *UCA Commitment* program and shares his vision for the future of the University. This initiative marks an important step in UCA's ongoing efforts to increase accessibility and support for students across the state.



Dr. Houston Davis serves as the 11th president of the University of Central Arkansas. Prior to becoming president of UCA, he was interim President of Kennesaw State University in Georgia. President Davis also served as Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the University System of Georgia from 2012 to 2016. Before his role in Georgia, he served in leadership and faculty roles in Oklahoma and Tennessee.

President Davis received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University with other degrees from the University of Memphis and Tennessee State University. He and his wife, Jenny, have three adult children.

## Zoom Login: 04.15.2025

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82745560578?pwd=W2RWD9jnahDoojZPgilxWQ8kJHJllg.1>

Meeting ID: 827 4556 0578

Passcode: 175803

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## Upcoming Programs

### April 2025

#### April 15: University of Central Arkansas' (UCA), New Business Model, Houston D. Davis, Ph.D., President

In the Fall of 2024, the University of Central Arkansas welcomed one of its largest incoming freshman classes with 2,183 students, marking a 26% increase in incoming students from fall 2023. One of the drivers of the incoming freshman enrollment is a new initiative. UCA Commitment is an opt-in financial tool that provides a debt-free pathway for incoming Arkansas freshmen from households earning up to \$100,000. Through the UCA Commitment, tuition and fees are covered for Arkansas students who have opted into the program. Fall 2024 was the official start of the initiative. Come hear UCA President Houston Davis discuss this program and his vision for the University.

#### April 22: The Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials: A Conversation with Justice Annabelle Tuck

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, a pivotal moment in history that brought justice to war criminals and laid the foundation for modern international law. Join us for a compelling discussion with Justice Annabelle Tuck, former Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court and the first woman elected to the court. Justice Tuck will explore the profound impact of the Nuremberg Trials on global justice and human rights while reflecting on the enduring lessons that continue to shape international law today.

#### April 29: Little Rock Port Authority: A Legacy of Economic Growth, Bryan Day, Executive Director

Founded in 1959, the Little Rock Port Authority was created with the mission of "driving economic development by providing a world-class transportation hub connecting Arkansas to the global economy." Today, the Port of Little Rock stands as a testament to that vision, playing a critical role in the state's economic landscape. Bryan Day, Executive Director of the Little Rock Port Authority, will discuss the Port's history, its current impact, and its exciting future. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the Port of Little Rock: Past, Present, and Future.

### May 2025

#### May 6: Celebrating 20 Years of Miracle League Arkansas

The Miracle League's mission is to provide special-needs families with the opportunity to find inclusive communities through the joy of America's favorite pastime—baseball. Since the first Miracle League field was built in Conyers, Georgia, in 2000, the initiative has grown into a nationwide movement. In the spring of 2005, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International, the Little Rock Rotary Club 99 took inspiration from this movement and brought the Miracle League to Central Arkansas. Through the dedication of Club 99 members, who raised the necessary funds, the Miracle League field was constructed at Junior Deputy Park. This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Miracle League Arkansas—an inspiring success story and a powerful testament to Club 99's lasting impact on our community.

#### May 13: 80 Years of Workforce Development at UA-Pulaski Tech College (UA-PTC), Summer deProw, Ph.D., Chancellor

Founded in October 1945 as the Little Rock Vocational School, UA-PTC has evolved over the past 80 years into a cornerstone of workforce development, playing a vital role in supporting the state's economic growth. In February 2017, the institution became part of the University of Arkansas System, marking a new chapter in its history. Join us as Chancellor Summer deProw reflects on the school's rich history, highlights recent achievements, and shares her vision for the future of UA-PTC.

#### May 20: Battle of Fallujah 20th Anniversary, Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of School, Episcopal Collegiate

Dr. Jamie Griffin, Head of Episcopal Collegiate School, will share his remarkable story as an aircraft maintenance officer with Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242, the "Bats," during their historic 2004-2005 deployment to Iraq. Stationed at Al-Asad Airbase, the Bats maintained a record-setting operational tempo, flying F/A-D Hornets, delivering over 8,000 flight hours and 400,000 pounds of precision ordnance in support of coalition forces, including critical air support during Operation Phantom Fury's Second Battle of Fallujah and Iraq's first democratic elections in January 2005.

The talk goes beyond military history - it's a compelling exploration of leadership, resilience, and teamwork under pressure. Jamie will share insights from this award-winning deployment, honored as "Marine Fighter Squadron of the Year" in 2005, and share strategic lessons that continue to guide his leadership in education today. Whether you're inspired by aviation, history, or practical leadership strategies applicable to any field, this presentation will captivate and inspire.

#### May 27: Business Professional Leader of the Year, Chris Johnson, Chair and College Scholarships, Sarah Beth Estes, Chair

## Special Events and Meetings

### Club 99 Social Event - register now

April 23, 2025, Club 99 Friends and Family Night at Dickey Stephens Park

Arkansas Travelers v. Midland

3rd Base Plaza

Gates Open: 5:35 PM

Buffet Opens: 6:05 PM

Game Starts: 6:35 PM

### New Member OrientationsChair: Melissa Hendricks

#### Monday, April 21, 2025

Time: 12 Noon - 1 PM - Lunch Provided

Location: Rotary Office, 425 W. Capitol Ave. (Simmons Tower), Suite 735



Affinity Group: Club 99 Book Club: Chair Sarah Bennings





















**Date:** May 7, 2025  
**Time:** 12:00 noon - lunch provided  
**Location:** Episcopal School, 1701 Cantrell Road  
**Host and Moderator:** Jamie Griffin  
**Book:** *10 to 25: The Science of Motivating Young People: A Groundbreaking Approach to Leading the Next Generation and Making Your Own Life Easier* by David Yeager

**July 2025**  
Host: Kristina Bolhouse

**Affinity Group: Women of Rotary**  
Chair: Kim Kirkman  
Time: 8:15 AM  
Via Zoom  
Dates & Topics:  
**April 25, 2025, Designing Your Life**  
**May 30, 2025, Wrap up: Life to the Fullest**

**Service Opportunities:**  
May 10, 2025, Miracle League Club 99 Buddy Day, Coordinator, Charlie Kreps  
April/May, TBA, Dunbar Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, Coordinator Beth Barnes  
May 12 (tentative), Dunbar Honors Assembly, Coordinator, Beth Barnes

Club Leaders

	<a href="#">Jason Chacko</a> President		<a href="#">Mitch Bettis</a> President-Elect		<a href="#">Molly McNulty</a> President-Nominee		<a href="#">Natalie Ghidotti</a> iPast President
	<a href="#">Drew Harper Jr.</a> Treasurer		<a href="#">Greg McCarroll</a> Treasurer-Elect		<a href="#">Amy Meins</a> Secretary		<a href="#">Rachel O'Neal</a> Sergeant-at-Arms
	<a href="#">Juli Brandenberger</a> Club Director		<a href="#">Nate Coulter</a> Club Director		<a href="#">Becky Finney</a> Club Director		<a href="#">Lena Hayes</a> Club Director
	<a href="#">Tanya James</a> Club Director		<a href="#">Viji Kuruvilla</a> Club Director		<a href="#">John Monroe</a> Club Director		<a href="#">Wendy Wood</a> Club Director
	<a href="#">Ross Burnett</a> Membership Chair		<a href="#">Chris Mangum</a> Club Programs Chair		<a href="#">Jamie Higgins</a> International Service Chair		<a href="#">Dan Parker</a> Club Service Chair