

Rotary



Club of Dalton, Georgia

**January 31st,
2023**

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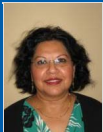
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This Week: Bull Snot

Yes, you read that correctly! This week, our speaker is Vann Brown, whose company Brown Ox Ventures is the manufacturer of "Bull Snot", a line of aerosol cleaning products for professional truck drivers and also other types of vehicles. Joining Mr. Brown will be some of the people who helped him start the company as well as "The Mountain Man" from "Duck Dynasty"!

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Vann Brown has established a successful career across multinational and technology-based textile, plastic, and chemical companies. As a visionary leader who values his people, Vann believes that respect and trust are essential anchors to develop a committed and effective workforce. In turn, he has fostered positive relationships with all people he works with; while inspiring them and building strong relationships at all levels of an organization to accomplish the goals and ensure the organization's strategic advantage. As a result, Vann successfully established Brown Ox Ventures, Inc., where he spearheads the development of advanced technologies and chemical concepts for aftermarket truck care, proudly serving the 3.5 million professional truck drivers who are the backbone of American.

Through his extensive experience, Vann has shown his commitment in attaining success, defining milestone, and leading cross-functional teams. His career path has given him an advantage to understand business needs, set proper priorities, and see how the corporate and client relationship management could be applied to create business opportunities and expand revenue. In turn, he has climbed up the corporate ladder, ranging from business development manager to vice president and president. Vann first exemplified his commendation-worthy performance at Mount Vernon Mills Inc. as a director of research and development where he contributed significant growth in the company in terms of comprehensive research and development. After 12 years of service in Mount Vernon Mills Inc., he joined other companies where he exemplified his expertise in developing new strategic plans and pioneering solutions in response to the companies' predicaments.

As evidence of Vann's operation management abilities, he assisted with the acquisition of Kurihara Textiles in Japan for Marubeni Denim Inc. through extensive business analysis and technological reviews. In addition, his proven business development acumen was reflected through the successful launch of polyactide (PLA) of NatureWorks LLC into the existing product lines for international and domestic markets. Also, he successfully led market penetration initiatives by reforming and implementing the vision of Outlast Technologies Inc.

As Vann assumed the role of global carpet business manager at Shell Chemicals and PTT PolyCanada, he strategically instituted the commercialization of product applications and business development activities into a leading position. Shortly after, he lent his services at Mohawk Industries as the vice president of innovation and technology. In this role, he was recognized for assisting in the effective negotiations of the California Carpet Stewardship Bill (AB 2398) as a company and industry representative. Furthermore, as the past president of ArrowStar LLC, Vann progressively lead numerous ground-breaking initiatives by proactively interfacing with others to render assistance, create solutions, and accomplish pre-established goals.

Vann is an alumnus of Piedmont College where he earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Louisiana State University where he earned his Master of Business Administration. He currently serves on the boards of the Roman Open Charities, Live4It Community Board, and Trucker Nation. His past board services are the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, NWGA College & Career Academy, Hamilton Healthcare Foundation, Piedmont College Board of Trustees, Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership, Piedmont College Alumni Association, Georgia Northwestern Technical College, and CARE (Carpet America Recovery Effort).

Meeting Recap: Mercer University

Last week's meeting we welcomed Mr. William Underwood, president of Mercer University. We had several Mercer graduates visiting with us, proud to represent their alma mater. Dr. Drayton Sanders is a proud alumnus of Mercer University and so graciously invited his good friend to speak to our club about impressive work that Mercer students are doing to better the state of Georgia and across the globe! Since becoming president in 2006, Mercer has experienced tremendous growth with enrollment increasing by more than 25 percent, launching multiple new master's and doctorate programs, and opening two new medical school campuses.

Mr. Underwood is proud of all Mercer alumnus, and mentioned the Mercer law school which has graduated four United States senators, 23 members of congress, 12 governors, and one US Attorney General. He focused his presentation on the work that biomedical engineering students are doing to help farmers in Vietnam. The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien describes the Vietnam War and the millions of landmines that are still there today and still blow up. It is extremely difficult to locate these landmines and detonate before they hurt someone. To that end, each year an average of 1,000 farmers step on these land mines, often resulting in a loss of a foot or leg. Unfortunately, these farmers can usually not afford to pay \$10,000 or \$20,000 to have a prosthetic. A Vietnamese professor at Mercer recognized this and challenged his biomedical engineering students to find a solution that is less expensive. They were able to determine that most of the cost of prosthetics is the custom fitting. They created in the lab an artificial leg that

can be adjusted very easily to fit the leg of almost any patient. The cost to produce these artificial legs are \$75 a piece. A couple of times a year students travel to Vietnam to hold a clinic where they help farmers with the fitting. To date, they have now fit 18,000 farmers. He is particularly proud of this program and to see students take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in real life.

Another growing Mercer program is their medical school. A mission of the medical school is to recruit and prepare doctors to serve in rural counties across the state. They now have three medical campuses in Savannah, Columbus, and Macon. The Nathan Deal Scholars Program was created to allow students in the program to go to medical school for free in exchange for a commitment to practice at least five years in a county that has 50,000 or fewer residents. They are also opening medical clinics across the state with the goal to one day be able to say that access to health care is not dependent on your zip code.

Mercer University values higher education and values the work their students are doing not only in the classroom, but outside. Frank proposed that our club purchase 25 of the prosthetic legs, which got a unanimous round of applause in agreement. Together with Mercer University, Rotary will make a difference in the lives of Vietnamese farmers. We are proud to be making a difference not only locally, but internationally as well.

January 31st Birthdays and Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

	Birthday
Tharpe, Henry C. (HENRY)	1-Feb
McKenzie, Sandra D (SANDY)	1-Feb

Partner Birthdays

Partner Name	Member Name	Birthday
Weaver, Virginia	Weaver, William B	1-Feb
Barnwell, Delle	Barnwell, William L	2-Feb
McKenzie, Jimmy	McKenzie, Sandra D	6-Feb

Member Anniversaries

	Start Date	Years
McClurg, Charles R. (RONNIE)	2/1/1989	34
Kinard, Dixie (DIXIE)	2/1/1996	27
Kinard, Robert W (ROBERT)	2/1/1981	42
Adcock, Don W. (DON)	2/1/1979	44
Cope, Don (DON)	2/1/1996	27
Wright, Thomas L (THOMAS)	2/1/1972	51

Wedding Anniversaries


No anniversaries this period.

Partner's Name	Anniversary	Years
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The Four Way Test



ROTARY



THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

first
Is it the TRUTH?

second
Is it FAIR to all concerned?

third
**Will it build GOOD WILL
and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

fourth
**Will it be BENEFICIAL to
all concerned?**

INTERNATIONAL

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