



Scuttlebutt

Thursday, January 28, 2021

President Gavin's notes

Greetings friends,

It was great to see so many of you last Friday. We were treated to an enlightening program from J.B. Buxton. I am excited about the speakers we have scheduled over the next several months, and I encourage you to keep tuning in. We are also excited to reintroduce the "member minute" to our meetings, giving us a chance to learn a little more about our fellow rotarians.

I continue to be impressed by all of the good works that our members do in our community and beyond. I am also reminded of what a strong and wonderful network of friends our club is, and am proud of the support that our members offer one another during difficult times. I appreciate your willingness to remain engaged in our club meetings in a virtual format, and continue to look forward to a time when we can safely resume our in person meetings.

I appreciate all that you do to serve East Chapel Hill Rotary. Together we will strive to thrive despite these uncertain times. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Rotary,

Gavin Heymann
President 2020-2021

Announcements

- Our next meal service date at the SECU Family House is 2/18/21. If you are able to serve please use this [Sign-Up Sheet](#).
- Our own, Ron Link was spotted in attendance at a recent UNC Basketball game. We're grateful for Ron's enduring support of the Tar Heels! 🇺🇸
- While we had hoped to be transitioning to limited in-person meetings early in the new year, recent COVID trends have hampered those plans. Guidance from our district still strongly discourages in-person meeting, and we agree with this prudent advice. We continue to monitor the situation, and will be poised to meet again physically when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, I ask that you do your best to attend virtually, and reach out to others who may have been absent to encourage them to do the same.

Sergeant-at-Arms David Baddour

David Baddour, Sergeant-at-Arms, began by reminding the group recent events that occurred on Jan. 22. The most recent, and to most of us probably the most significant, event on that date, was the lock-down of Wuhan, China, on Jan. 22, 2020. At that time only about 500 people had contracted the coronavirus and only 17 had died. Other events included a heavyweight boxing match, a significant appointment of a Secretary of State, and the first episode of a TV show.

After a short prayer by Gardner Stultz, David intrigued us by presenting some notes from a document from the first years of the East Chapel Hill Rotary s existence. Perhaps the most appreciated item from the document, containing both a member roster and some historical information, was the picture of Roger Jennings with hair. Some evidence of the irreverence of the early club and its members was also brought to our attention. That such a club has survived for over 50 years is certainly notable.

January 22, 2021 Speaker - J.B. Buxton

By John Akin

Nick Vaughn introduced our speaker, whose achievements are so numerous and impressive that I will make no effort to cover them all.

J.B. Buxton has served as the President of Durham Technical Community College since July 2020. Prior to joining Durham Tech, he ran the Education Innovations Group, a consulting practice focused on PreK-12 and postsecondary public education. Since September of 2018, Buxton has served as a member of the N.C. State Board of Education. He also has an appointment as a part-time teaching assistant professor in the Public Policy Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Prior to starting the Education Innovations Group, Buxton served as the Deputy State Superintendent of the NC Department of Public Instruction. He also served as a White House Fellow, working with the Domestic Policy

Speakers

January 29, 2021

[Ed Roberson](#)
The Changing American West

February 05, 2021

[Hugh Stevens](#)
Open Records & First Amendment Rights

Birthdays

William C. Blackman
January 28th

J Michael Adair
January 29th

Chadd McGlone
February 1st

Gerald D. Benson Jr.
February 4th

John D. Grantham
February 5th

James R. Starling
February 9th

David H. Moreau
February 9th

Cecil Rambarat
February 11th

David F. Anna
February 11th

Joel Wagoner
February 19th

Dennis Ellis
February 21st

Mary Roodkowsky
February 22nd

Gavin Christopher Heymann
February 24th

Steve Hess
February 26th

Ronald C. Link
February 27th

Club Leaders



[Gavin Christopher Heymann](#)
President



[Patrick Phelan](#)
President-Elect



[Omar Zinn](#)
Secretary



[Courtney H Knoll](#)
Treasurer



[Christine Diane Jones](#)
Club Director



[Laurie Paolicelli](#)
Public Image Chair



Council under President Clinton. Buxton attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. He received his Master's in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Buxton began his career as a high school English teacher and coach in Massachusetts.

Buxton and his wife, Hunter, have three children: Drake, a recent graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill working with Deloitte Consulting; Luke, a senior at UNC-CH; and Sadie, a sophomore at N.C. State University. President Buxton's presentation was of Durham Tech, its activities and import, and the role of a community college in a community.

Durham Technical College has 5 campus locations in this community, a community served that is broader than Durham County. (Many years ago I took a course in auto mechanics from Durham Tech that met at Chapel Hill High School.) There are presently about 19,000 students in over 100 programs, working toward degrees, diplomas or certificates. There are 10 major program groupings, each offering a number of courses. Examples of the 10 groups are Building and Skilled Trades; Information Technology; Online Learning; Science, Engineering and Math; Human Services and Public Safety, and Health and Wellness. Enrollments are down a bit this year, because of the pandemic.

An interesting initiative, Back to Work, being offered at present, aims to aid the unemployed in preparing themselves for new jobs. The course work for the courses in this initiative, including such areas as Nurse Aides, Core Construction, Community Health Work, Emergency Medical Technology and Early Childhood Education, takes from 6 to 8 weeks. Tuition cost is mostly in the range of \$190 to \$ 300.

Mr. Buxton talked a bit about the efforts being made by Durham Tech to increase equity, both at Durham Tech and in the community. On the Durham Tech website is the declaration that this push toward equity is not a statement but an action plan.

Buxton pointed out that much effort at Durham Tech and other community colleges focuses on gathering information on the future labor needs of the region and the activities necessary to meet those needs. Knowledge of the employers active in the area and the types of workers they need is also used in planning for the College's direction. Durham Tech has enhanced its planning effort by working with three strong organizations in the planning process: The Aspen Institute, Achieving the Dream and the Belk Center at North Carolina State University. The future for Durham Tech and those it serves looks bright.

In a question-and-answer period after his presentation, Buxton pointed out that in this geographic area the economic mobility of children born to households in the lowest 25 percentile of income into the top 25 percentile is very low. Of interest is that such movement is not significantly better in the urban areas than in the rural. He also noted that as Durham Tech President his greatest positive surprise has been the quality of the faculty at Durham Tech, while the biggest negative surprise has been how difficult it is to overcome the challenges faced by people in needy demographic groups in our area. Buxton spoke with passion of the need for community colleges, high schools and universities to work together in planning and coordination.

To view the recording click below.

<https://youtu.be/SX1tEb0f5c0>

Our next Speaker Ed Roberson

Ed Roberson is a Colorado-based conservationist and creator of [Mountain & Prairie](#) a top-ranked podcast recognized by the Aspen Institute, *High Country News*, Apple Podcasts, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Montana Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation, and more.

Professionally, Ed works as Conservation Director at [Palmer Land Conservancy](#), an innovative land and water conservation organization that protects Southern Colorado's agricultural lands and recreational open space. Prior to Palmer, he spent his career in the business world, having worked extensively in ranch brokerage, commercial real estate, and finance. His formal education is also centered around business holding both a BA in economics and an MBA with a concentration in finance. Ed says, "it's my dream come true to apply my professional and educational expertise to such a critical cause as land and water conservation."

Ed's work is focused on the land, and so are his hobbies. He pushes himself hard in mountain sports, having climbed Denali, Aconcagua, and many Colorado 14ers, and enjoys (slowly but surely) running 50- and 100-mile ultramarathons through the western backcountry. Ed and his wife are keenly focused on instilling a love of and respect for the outdoors in their two young daughters, so most weekends are centered around family hikes and camping trips. Any downtime is spent [reading](#), with an emphasis on history, biography, adventure narratives, ecology, natural history, memoirs, and the (very) occasional novel.



Zoom Information

This Friday we have Ed Roberson joining us.



[William B. Aycock II](#)
Service Projects Chair



[David Baddour](#)
Club Fellowship Chair



[Gregory E. Bradbury](#)
Membership Chair



[Will Bunch](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offer



[Mike Clayton](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Timothy Dalton](#)
Club Fundraising Chair



[David Grier Martin](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[John A Perry](#)
Club Admin Chair



[Nicholas Matthew Vaughn](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Lorenzo Mejia](#)
Youth Services Chair



[Matthew Arnold](#)
iPast President



[Carol J. Rives](#)
Asst Governor

Topic: East Chapel Hill Rotary Club Meeting
Time: Jan 29, 2021 12:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86109606911?pwd=eHRvQUV5U2RBK2dla1VSZHhXbTNIz09>

Meeting ID: 861 0960 6911

Passcode: 290733

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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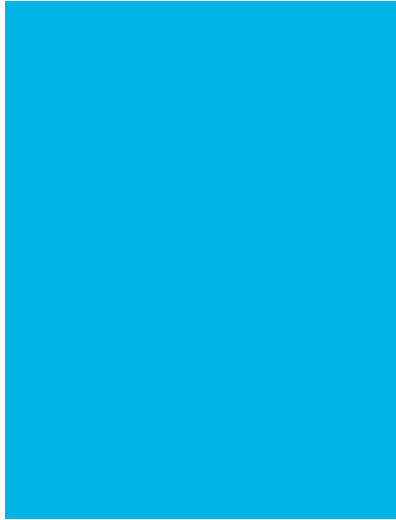
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Meeting ID: 861 0960 6911

Passcode: 290733

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East Chapel Hill
Meets at Chapel Hill Country Club

Time: Friday at 12:45 PM