



# THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

*"Service above self"*

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*Issue Date* ..... *September 19, 2002*  
*Next Meeting* ..... *September 24, 2002*  
*Meeting Place* ..... *Poinsett Hotel (Gold Room), Main Street*

## Greenville Rotary salutes education



**C**hristina Hunter, left, was honored by the Rotary Club of Greenville on September 10th as Greenville County's Teacher of the Year. In its annual Salute to Education, our club also honored runners-up, from left, Jennifer Young-Wagner, Debbie Cooke, and Linda Jennings. Story inside.

**Holiday Lights workdays begin September 28th**  
For schedule and times, see story inside

## Hunter affirms fellow teachers

“Your commitment to education shines through the many things you do for us,” said Christina Hunter as she was recognized on September 10th by Greenville Rotary as Teacher of the Year in Greenville County.

Hunter, who teaches third grade at Sara Collins Elementary School, said the honor was “affirming for all who have the courage to do what’s right for the students, to teach outside the box.”

She applauded her friends as colleagues in education “who have helped shape me as a teacher” while also paying tribute to her students who “make me want to come to work.” Hunter emphasized that educators “must reach as well as teach” their students.

Rotary also honored Teacher of the Year runners-up Debbie Cooke, Fine Arts Center; Jennifer Young-Wagner, Monaview Elementary School; and Linda Jennings, Bryson Elementary School.

School District Superintendent William Harner, a member of Greenville Rotary Club, expressed appreciation to the club for “so many things that you do for the School District of Greenville County” in support of both teachers and students. Underscoring the importance of teacher quality, Harner pointed out that more than 3,000 of Greenville County’s teachers had been involved in various forms of staff development during the summer months.

As part of the September 10th recognition, Rotarians watched a video offering profiles of the four teachers honored.

October 8th meeting  
of Greenville Rotary  
Fellowship Outing  
at David Shi’s house

*No regular meeting  
on this date*

### *The Greenville Rotarian*

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Bhichai Rattakul, RI President

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## Brazil student follows steps of his sisters

Tiago Tassino, a 17-year-old from Natal, Brazil, was introduced on September 10th as Greenville Rotary Club’s newest exchange student. He joins Kheli Fiadjoe, who has begun his second year as an exchange student sponsored by our club.

Tiago attends Greenville High School, where he is in the 11th grade. If he still were in Brazil, he would have graduated from high school this year.

He was elected president of the student body at his school. At his Brazil school, he was one of 200 accepted from 5,000 who tested for admission.

He plays the guitar and piano, and he and Kheli have begun taking tennis lessons. Tiago is the youngest of three children. His two older sisters both were Rotary exchange students in Greenville. “He visited one of his sisters while she was here and developed a great desire to come back as an exchange student himself,” said Club President Nell Stewart, with whom the young man from Brazil lives.

Tiago’s mother is a psychologist and his father is a psychiatrist. “And he says they have a crazy son,” Nell joked.

Last year was the first time our club had two exchange students. When the club learned that the Governor’s School wanted to keep Kheli for a second year, the club decided to continue that sponsorship while also bringing Tiago to Greenville.

## Habitat volunteers still needed

Volunteers are still being sought for service as the Rotary clubs of Greenville County continue construction of a second Habitat House at Saluda Bluffs off White Horse Road.

According to Beth Padgett, workers are needed on four Fridays — September 20, 27 and October 4, 11 — and on two Saturdays — October 5, 12. The work day is divided into morning and afternoon shifts, starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending around 5:30 p.m. To sign up, contact Beth at 298-4321 or bpadgett@greenvillenews.com.



Assisted by Kheli Fiadjoe, Tiago Tassino, left, displayed the flag of Brazil at the September 10th Rotary meeting.

## SCDOT exec Betty Mabry Rotary speaker

Betty Mabry, executive director of the South Carolina Department of Transportation since 1997, will speak at the September 24th meeting of Greenville Rotary. Appointed by the State Transportation Commission, she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the fourth largest state-maintained highway system in the country.



Mabry

Mabry has been with SCDOT for almost 20 years. Prior to being appointed executive director, she served as the department’s legal counsel and as chair of the committee formed by the Commission to develop and implement innovative approaches such as design/build projects, public private partnerships, and the Construction Acceleration Program.

Mabry earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina and a juris doctorate from USC Law School. She is a native of Kingstree, and is married to Buford Mabry Jr., who is chief legal counsel for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. They live in Lexington and have two married children and five grandchildren, all of whom live in Lexington.

## The Family of Rotary

On September 28, the Greenville Rotary Club will kick off its series of Saturday workdays in preparation for the 2002 edition of the **Roper Mountain Holiday Lights**.

Workdays for September 28, October 5 and October 19 will run from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and October 26 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Times and activities for October 12 will be announced later.

If the weather is bad on a scheduled workday, call 444-7968 before 8:30 a.m. to find out whether the day's activities have been cancelled.

New members of the Family of Rotary introduced at the September 10th meeting were **Sam Konduros** and **Richard Sturm**.

At that same meeting, former Greenville County Sheriff and club member Johnny Mack Brown, along with Acting Sheriff Steve Loftis, joined in a memorial to **Sam Simmons**, a member of our club and Greenville County Sheriff until his recent death.

Sympathy is extended from the Family of Rotary to **Mike Jaskwich** in the loss of his wife Cynthia.

Congratulations are in order for **George Acker**, the incoming chairman of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

## New Members Proposed

**Michael Bostick**, Agent, New York Life, under the classification of Life Insurance-Financial Services, sponsored by John Funderburk and Bill Mitchell.

**Lillie Lewis**, Principal, Parker Academy, under the classification of Education-Administration, sponsored by Phillip Kilgore and Bill Harner.

**John A. Malone**, former Chief Administrator and Human Resource Manager, Global Equipment, under the classification of Human Resources, sponsored by Myles Golden and Frank Kolb.

**Herbert B. Strange**, Adjunct Professor, Furman University, and Retired Military Chaplain, under the classification of Education/Universities, sponsored by Myles Golden and Baxter Wynn.

## Patriotic Pride never out of date

September 11th, declared as Patriots Day by President Bush, has passed, but there is still time for you and your neighbors to get flags for Veterans Day on November 11th. What could be more fitting than for our Rotary Club to make sure our streets are 100 percent patriotic?

Flags will be on sale at Rotary meetings. Get your flags for November 11th, but also think creatively about using flags as gifts for the following:

- a child or grandchild who buys their first home
- a wedding shower gift
- a new neighbor gift

Remember, 100 percent Patriotic Pride for Greenville County is our goal.