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**Club meets**  
**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays**  
**At 11:45 am**  
**Downtown Holiday Inn**  
**Huntsville, AL**

# Opti - Topics

## **Opening**

Another fine turnout of twenty-five Optimists joined our speaker and two guests at our regularly scheduled meeting at the Downtown Holiday Inn today. Through a mix-up in scheduling, we were not expected at the DTH today, but the hotel staff did a wonderful job in setting up tables, bringing drinks and serving lunches from the menu. The salmon salad and Rueben sandwiches seemed to be popular choices.

Our two guests today were Clay Roundtree, of Regions Bank, who was a guest of John Shirey; and Nita Peters, wife of Bill Peters. Bill introduced Nita by informing us it was her birthday, and they had been married for 49 years. We all sang “Happy Birthday” to Nita.

Rev. Jim Berry gave the invocation, and our newest member, Vastell Williams, led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Program**

Due to the late arrival of our lunches, our speaker, Ms. Holly Ralston, was introduced before we ate by this month’s Program Chairman, Tim Vander Veer. Ms. Ralston is the Director of Communications for the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, a position she has held since the institute’s founding.



**Our business meeting  
is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the  
month at the Optimist  
Recreation Center on  
Oakwood Avenue**

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Ms. Ralston related the history of the HudsonAlpha Institute and the unique partnership this not-for-profit organization has with private industry. At the beginning, there were 12 corporate tenants sharing the Institute's quarters, and now there are 25 companies leasing space in their building. The Institute has 153 acres in Cummings Research Park in Huntsville, and has a large area available for the planned expansion of buildings of profit-making corporations.

The Institute has three primary activities: (1) Promoting and supporting individualized medicine, (2) Fostering economic development in Huntsville and Alabama, and (3) Educating the local work force in biotechnology to attract new industry to our area. The general mode of operation of the Institute is to research and develop biotechnology and then transfer it to private industry and from there to the marketplace.

Some of the areas in work for individualized medicine are related to prostate cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease, children's developmental problems, and preventing staph infections from a hospital stay. The Institute has a number of educational outreach programs, including summer internships and lectures to local schools. Over 70,000 students have been given some type of training in genetics, with the aim that many of these will seek a career in this field.

There are seven research labs in the institute, but Ms. Ralston says you will find most of the scientists there doing "bioinformatics" i. e., computer based research on the mountain of data available in this field.

In response to a question, Ms. Ralston said that tours of the Institute can be arranged through her. She prefers a group no smaller than 12 nor larger than 50. Sounds like a good activity for interested Club members someday.

## Lunch

As mentioned above, we ate from the menu today, so lunch for some began during the program, and for most ended sometime after the program had ended. Abdel was there to serve us our individually placed orders, and made the best of the awkward situation.

## Announcements



Al Renz reminded everyone that announced that reservations for the June 21 dedication of the Everybody Can Play playground **are required by Friday, June 14** since lunch will be served. Call or e-mail Al or Jim Roe to reserve your spot.



Band Committee Chairman Al Adams reminded us that there will be a meeting of all Band Committee members, *and anyone who might be interested in joining this outstanding project*, to assemble at Optimist Recreation Center at 9:00 a. m. on Saturday, June 29, to inventory and organize the storage of the band instruments. The instruments will be delivered in batches to Robbins Music by type for refurbishment and restocking in the closet.

## Closing

Our speaker drew Al Adams name on the first draw, so Al took home the double attendance prize.

Alberto Duarte led the Club in reciting the Optimist Creed to close the meeting.

*Clyde Nevins*

## Optimistic Quote of the Week

**"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is."**

*~Francis Bacon*

**P H O T O S**



**Guest Clay Roundtree**



**[Left to Right] President Tom, Tim Vander Veer, and our speaker Holly Ralston, Director of Communications for the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology**



**Al Adams Checks Out the Lunch Menu**



**Birthday Lady Nita Peters and Bill Peters**

## CALENDAR

6/20 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Tim Vander Veer)**

6/27 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – Tom Casteel**

7/4 Thursday **No Meeting (Holiday)**



7/9 Tuesday 4:00 pm 1st Commercial Bank

**Board Meeting**

7/11 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – Duane Plank**

7/18 Thursday 11:45 am Optimist Recreation Center

**Business Meeting - Food – (Duane Plank)**

7/25 Thursday 11:45 am Downtown Holiday Inn

**TBD – Duane Plank**

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Promise Yourself -

**T**o be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

**T**o talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

**T**o make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

**T**o look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true

**T**o think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

**T**o be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

**T**o forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

**T**o wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

**T**o give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

**T**o be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist International



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**TO:**