



October 27, 2015

**Economic Opportunity: A Charlotte Mecklenburg Perspective
Dr. Owen J. Furuseth, Associate Provost for Metropolitan Studies &
Extended Academic Programs, UNC Charlotte**



According to Dr. Furuseth, Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a region of superlatives and awards including best performing city, #1 Most Entrepreneurial City (*Global Trade Magazine*), #4 City Attracting the Most Families (*Forbes*) and #2 Fastest Growing Big Cities (*Census Bureau*). But, at the same time, the region ranks last when it comes to upward mobility making Charlotte the worst big city in the nation for climbing out of poverty.

Recent Harvard national studies on economic mobility posed the question...how do children from below-median income families' fare by adulthood? Key study factors having the highest impact on the economic opportunity profile included segregation, income inequality, school quality, social capital and family structure. The study notes that there is substantial variation in intergenerational mobility across areas within the U.S. The U.S. is a collection of geographic areas, some of which have high rates of mobility across generations and others in which few children escape poverty. Upward mobility is especially low across the south.

Charlotte highlights include:

- 38% of households with children are single parent
- Segregation is evident in neighborhoods, race and class
- One fifth of the households made more than half the income
- Many households would fall into poverty after 3 months without income
- Differences in mobility emerge when children are young (reading)
- Inter-racial trust has remained flat

Charlotte's ranking presents a clear challenge and overcoming impoverishment is especially daunting in this area. Currently, the issue is being addressed through community action, dialogue and the study of model cities through a community task force organized by the Foundation for the Carolinas and supported with grants from the Knight Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Dr. Furuseth stressed the need for long-term community-wide solutions that address the systemic nature of this highly complex issue.

Speaker Write Up: Sandra James Gordon

Head Table: Floyd Davis, Nancy McNelis, Tom Bartholomy, Dena Diorio, Courtney Ramey, Carson Dean; Invocation: Rudy Rudisill; Visitors & Guests: Chris Kemper; Song: Chris Kemper; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Herb Harriss

Club News

Don Davidson, president of Charlotte Rotary in 1972-1973, passed away on October 18 at the age of 96. Don is another example of those with a lifelong commitment to Davidson College as was evident when he and his wife, Anne, endowed the Stapleton-Davidson Internship Program at the college. What an interesting life: He served with the Army in WWII; involved in the beginnings of Package Products, which led to the creation of another new company, Jack's Cookies. He merged Washburn Printing Company with a company in Virginia to form Cadmus; and was a founding member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. In retirement, he and his wife spent time in Black Mountain where he actively supported Warren Wilson College and established the G.D. Davidson Vocation Discovery Experience, a permanent endowment to honor his father. A memorial service was held at Covenant on October 24. The club will make a memorial donation to the Stapleton-Davidson Internship Program.

John Smarge, Past Rotary International Director, will be the keynote speaker at the District's Foundation Banquet, November 12, 2015 at the Historic Langtree Plantation in Mooresville. 6PM reception; 7PM dinner and program; \$50 per person. Sandy can handle your reservation if you are interested in attending.

Posted for Membership (comments to Rotary Office by 11/03/15)

Wangzhong Lu, CommScope, Inc. (IT, Architecture/Strategy and Management)

Sponsor: Courtney Ramey Endorsed: Jerry Coughter and John Phillips

100 Projects Update

(1) we need 5 (minimum) Rotarians working a project for it to count toward our goal of completing 100 projects. (2) let Sandy know if you have signed up for anything.

Airport Run on **10/31** at 8AM, Charlotte Douglas International Airport, register at <https://www.sportoften.com/event/23740/runway-5k-run>. 5 have registered

Feed the Hungry on **10/31**, 9:30-11:30 at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center (do not need to register – just show up)

Clothing Drive to support Crisis Assistance Ministry during the month of **November**, donations can be dropped off at tables set up in the hotel parking lot

Safe Alliance Luncheon on **11/10**, 5 table captains needed, contact Ron Kimble

Habitat on **11/14**, <https://habitatcharlotte.volunteerconnect.com/charlotte-rotary-clubs/full> for info and to register to work at the ReStore or to help with a build.

Habitat Julia's Bookstore, books (and also videos & games) may be delivered to Rotary on **11/3** or **11/10**

Kim Popky Platelet Challenge is on-going. John zumBrunnen wants 100 platelet donations over the next year and will donate \$50 for every donation to the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center. If the goal is met, he will donate an additional \$5000.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (10/27/15 – 11/2/15)

10/27 – Bill Griffin, Bob Knight

11/01 – Michael Elder

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (10/27/15 – 11/2/15)

10/27 – Durenda & Tom Bartholomy, Daphne & Tom O'Brien, Bettye & Chris Connelly

10/31 – Sarah & George Page

11/02 – Carolyn & Chase Saunders

Visitors & Guests	6
Club Members	94
Total	100
Percentage	35.5%

MEMBERSHIP

06/30/2015	319
10/27/2015	320
Net Increase:	+1

New Members: Larry Broome, Lauri Eberhart, Rex Reynolds

Resignations: Tony Pinkard, Frank Watson, Brad Cansler, Marie Jaffe, Penny Hefner, Amber Brown, Nick Simonette, Tiffani Tedder

Guests: Christian Noetslin, Maggie Eagleton, Yihuan Song, Erin Doss, Rick Jackson

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

11/03 – Bill Barnhardt, The Rotary Foundation

11/10 - Excellence in Leadership Award **Myers Park Country Club**

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)





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