

Meet our speaker: **Yvonne Ulmer, M.ED., CPC** – Certified Professional Coach

Certified Professional Coach, 2011-present - Coach and organizational consultant providing training, assessment, and customized programs for businesses and non-profit agencies: strategic planning, leadership development, teambuilding, communication, conflict resolution and performance appraisal workshops. Personal and executive coaching to enhance interpersonal skills and achieve performance objectives.

Provost/CEO St Petersburg College Downtown and Midtown campuses, 1998 – Dec. 2011 - Provided leadership for the operation of two St. Petersburg College campuses.

Associate Provost University Partnership Center, St. Petersburg College, 2000-2003 - Provided academic leadership and assisted in the initiation and coordination of the partnership programs with universities across the State of Florida and beyond.

Director of Management and Staff Development St. Petersburg Junior College, 1990-1998 - Responsible for assessing needs and coordinating the implementation of training programs for management, faculty and career staff college-wide.

Counselor, St. Petersburg Junior College, St. Pete/Gibbs Campus, 1985-1990 - Academic, career, and personal advising, testing and interpretation

**Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2015-2016:**

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District 6950 Website - [www.rotary6950.org](http://www.rotary6950.org)  
Website - [www.seminolerotary.org](http://www.seminolerotary.org)  
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313



**ROTARY 2015-2016**

## **SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS**

**Club Number 4289**



**February 24, 2016**

**PRAYER FOR TODAY :** Dear Lord, we thank You for this food and for the fellowship of Rotary. We pray that this food may strengthen us physically and this fellowship may enrich us spiritually, that we may better do Your will. Amen.

**PROGRAM THIS WEEK: Yvonne Ulmer,  
Coaching By Design**

**PROGRAM LAST WEEK: Mark Strickland - Interim  
Provost at SPC Seminole**

**PROGRAM NEXT WEEK: R. Russel, American History**

**Upcoming Events:**

March 9th: Nancy Lucas, Gift to the World  
March 16th: Sevdije Lucas, Pilates  
March 23rd: Frauke (Buss) Schultz, 1990 Exchange student  
March 30th: Anthony Torregrossa, US Flag  
April 21st: Seminole Rotary Golf Tournament

## Cultivating peace: Summer Lewis

**Area of focus:** Growing local economies

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Consultant

**Location:** Oaxaca, Mexico

**Peace Center:** University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 2011-12



By the end of her program, Lewis had realized two things: first, that her destiny lay in precisely this kind of small-scale work; and second, that her connection to Rotarians was going to be essential.

Lewis took a job in Oaxaca, Mexico, as the international program coordinator for Coffee Kids, a nonprofit that worked with coffee-farming communities in Latin America. In January 2015, she co-founded True Roots Consulting to foster social responsibility programs. One of her firm's first partnerships is with a family gardens project in northern Mexico, a connection that came, naturally enough, through Rotary. The Rotary Club of Torreón Centenario, Mexico, has supported the project for several years and is working with True Roots to expand and more effectively manage it.

“In 2007, Summer Lewis was eager to return to school. She had graduated summa cum laude from Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, sociology, and women's studies and spent several years traveling and working with organizations focused on economic development at the grassroots level.

The problem was that I had too many areas of interest,” recalls Lewis. “Economic development, fair trade, sustainability, social justice. How was I going to find a graduate school program that allowed me to pursue all that?”

The answer came from a Rotarian who worked at KSU and suggested that Lewis would make an ideal candidate for a Rotary Peace Fellowship. “Another Rotarian, Bill Richter, the District 5710 chair for peace fellowships, was also incredibly supportive,” Lewis says. “He worked with me through two applications.” She traveled to Brisbane, Australia, to pursue a master's in international relations, peace and conflict resolution, at the University of Queensland. Almost immediately, she saw the link between her grassroots work in development and the theoretical issues she studied as a peace fellow: “My real interest was in preventing conflicts by addressing the root of the problem, such as when people can't meet their basic needs and resort to violent measures or to migration.”

As she travels the world, Lewis has found that the peace fellowship serves as a kind of social and professional passport. “I've spoken to clubs all over the world,” she says. “I've stayed in people's houses. It feels a lot like a family. I'm incredibly grateful for the chance I was given to get my master's. But it's the network, the sense of connection, that's been the biggest gift. There's a genuine ethos of idealism and collaboration that you don't see in other business groups.”

And Lewis sees a direct connection between her work with grassroots projects and the larger mission of Rotary and the work of Rotarians. “People sometimes ask me how one little project in one little community makes a difference. But you can't think of it like that. You have to consider the thousands, if not millions, of projects all over the world. Then you have to consider all the Rotary Peace Fellows working on projects like this. Then think about all the Rotary clubs carrying out projects in communities. Now you're talking about changing the world.”