

reconnections

A Bulletin for Program Alumni of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International



Rotary and Gates Foundation commit US\$200 million for push to end polio

In November, Rotary International announced a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will inject a much-needed US\$200 million into the global effort to eradicate polio.

The Rotary Foundation received a \$100 million Gates Foundation challenge grant, which Rotary will raise funds to match over three years through an effort called Rotary’s US\$100 Million Challenge. Rotary will spend the initial \$100 million within one year in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Rotary’s partners in the GPEI are the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“I know that we as Rotarians will accept the challenge and do our part to finish the job.”

Wilfrid J. Wilkinson

“The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication,” says Bill Gates, cochair of the Gates Foundation. “Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal.”

The challenge grant is one of the largest ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest grant received by Rotary in its 103-year history. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF in direct support of polio immunization activities.

“Rotarians worldwide have worked very hard over the years to reach this point, and it is rewarding to see our approach validated in such a significant way by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,” said Dr. Robert Scott, trustee chair of The Rotary Foundation. “We hope that this shared commitment will challenge other donors, including foundations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations, to step up and make sure we have the resources needed to rid the world of polio once and for all.”

Polio eradication has been Rotary’s top priority since 1985. Before receiving the Gates Foundation grant, Rotary had already contributed \$650 million to the effort, with more than one million Rotarians helping to immunize more than two billion children. Although the GPEI has slashed the number of polio cases by 99 percent over the past two decades, wild poliovirus is still endemic in four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

“This partnership is a historic milestone — and timely opportunity — for Rotary through the global initiative to help eradicate a disease that once devastated a thousand lives a day,” said RI President Wilfrid Wilkinson. “I know that we as Rotarians will accept the challenge and do our part to finish the job.”

Rotary Foundation alumni, too, are invited to help support the final push to eradicate polio by participating in Rotary’s US\$100 Million Challenge through their Foundation alumni associations or by contributing online at www.rotary.org/endpolio. Rotaract and Interact clubs and alumni associations are also encouraged to take part through their sponsor Rotary clubs’ fundraising activities.

Find more on the Gates Foundation grant and Rotary’s US\$100 Million Challenge at www.rotary.org.



Rotarian-led immunization campaigns are aimed at eradicating polio in India and the three other countries where the disease is endemic.

The case for polio eradication

Worldwide, the annual number of polio cases has dropped from 350,000 in the mid-1980s to 1,300 in 2007. Although the GPEI is close to achieving a polio-free world, some in the scientific community have asked whether the goal should be eradication or containment of the disease.

A 2007 Harvard research study found that wiping out polio is the better option. Researchers used a mathematical model to weight financial and human costs and health outcomes of the eradication and control options.

According to an article about the study in the *Lancet*, a leading medical journal, the developing world can save more

than US\$1 billion a year by finishing polio. Switching to a containment strategy, however, would condemn 10 million children to polio over the next 40 years alone.

“What’s the acceptable [level of] control? There are the human costs, too,” says Dr. Robert Scott, trustee chair of The Rotary Foundation. “How do you put a dollar amount on pain and the suffering of lifelong paralyzed limbs?”

“Finishing the job of polio eradication is our best buy,” says Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization. “We must do it. We are leaving a perpetual gift to generations of children to come.”



It’s not too late to reconnect at the Rotary Alumni Celebration!



Reconnect. Engage. Celebrate.

Join fellow Rotary Foundation alumni for fun and fellowship at the Rotary Alumni Celebration, 13-14 June, at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles. Held just before the start of the RI Convention, the celebration will be the first-ever official preconvention event meeting tailored to Foundation alumni.

The two-day gathering will feature prominent speakers, workshops, the first meeting of The Rotary Foundation Alumni Network (see page 7), and an evening reception on 13 June honoring Foundation alumni. While celebrating alumni experiences and achievements, you’ll also have the opportunity to learn about Rotary service opportunities and ways to be involved.

Registration is on-site, and 2000-08 Foundation alumni will still qualify for a greatly discounted rate. Get details at www.rotary.org. We hope you will reconnect, engage, and celebrate in L.A.!





A Rotarian immunizes a child against polio in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Beyoncé gives oral polio vaccine to a child.

Rotarians help protect Ethiopian children against polio

More than 70 Rotarians from the United States and Canada joined fellow Rotarians, volunteers, and health workers in Ethiopia to immunize children as part of a nationwide campaign there in October. The campaign targeted 15 million children under age five.

“This is a historic opportunity to end polio in my former homeland — and worldwide,” said Ezra Teshome, of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle, Washington, USA. “We must remain committed until every child is protected against the tragic, fatal consequences of this disease.”

It marked the eighth time that Teshome has led Rotarian groups to participate in Ethiopia’s immunization campaigns. This time, group members enjoyed a boost of star power from singer Beyoncé Knowles, who met them before a stage performance in Addis Ababa and helped administer the oral polio vaccine.

“I want to encourage all parents to give this vaccination to their children. It really benefits their health,” said Beyoncé, who immunized 10 youths against the disease.

“Beyoncé was so impressed [with] our commitment to not only provide funding

“This is a historic opportunity to end polio in my former homeland — and worldwide.”

Ezra Teshome

but to make the trip to administer the vaccine,” Teshome said.

In addition to protecting children from polio, the group visited a Rotary club-supported well project that provides clean drinking water to about 30 villages.

Ethiopia has made significant progress toward ending polio and reported no cases in 2007. It recorded 17 cases in 2006, after an outbreak in the Horn of Africa, and 22 in 2005.

For as little as US\$0.60 worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against polio for life. Since 1985, Rotary has contributed \$7.7 million in support of immunization campaigns in Ethiopia.

Putting the brakes on human trafficking

“We’re talking about human slavery, modern-day slavery,” says Jeanette Kroes about the target of her work for the International Criminal Police Organization, better known as Interpol.

Kroes, a former Ambassadorial Scholar and Rotary World Peace Fellow, is an administrator for the agency responsible for liaising with the United Nations and is based in the New York office. She is working closely with officers in the human trafficking unit at Interpol headquarters in Lyons, France, to spearhead a project that will entail unprecedented international cooperation in the fight against child sexual exploitation in Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

The goal of the project, which Kroes hopes will be up and running by September, is to pool Interpol’s investigative resources with the UN’s legal resources to more effectively identify child sex offenders and bring them to justice. In support of the project, she brings together officials from the UN in New York and Bangkok, Interpol headquarters in France, and various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and law enforcement agencies in Southeast Asia.

This holistic and coordinated approach is something that Kroes learned as a 2003-05 Rotary World Peace Fellow at Sciences Po in Paris.

“I am profoundly thankful to The Rotary Foundation for the exceptional opportunities to study the concept of peace.”

Jeanette Kroes

“The founders of the [Rotary World Peace Fellowships] program understood the necessity for a comprehensive approach to peace,” said Kroes in a speech at Rotary’s International Assembly in January. “In order for peace to be sustainable, there must be cooperation

between the humanitarian worker in the field and the diplomat in the United Nations. For no actor, governmental or nongovernmental, and no one activity, bottom up or top down, is sufficient without the other.”

Kroes says she’s had a “strong desire to be in the world, to be acting in the world,” ever since she participated in undergraduate study-abroad programs in Indonesia and Senegal. After graduating from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, USA, she studied Islamic thought and theology in Marrakech, Morocco, as a 2000-01 Ambassadorial Scholar, sponsored by Rotary District 5610 (South Dakota, USA).

Kroes arrived in Morocco just as the intifada, or uprising, was heating up in Israel and Palestine. With students at her university holding daily demonstrations in support of Palestine and in opposition to the United States and Israel, she was eager to fulfill her ambassadorial duties. To initiate a dialogue, she approached the school’s English department and offered to hold a series of informal English conversation courses.

The courses proved a big hit, attracting some 60 students and even a few teachers. Kroes says that the discussions covered everything from American television to religion and politics. The students were often amused and sometimes confrontational. But most of all, they were relieved to talk with an American woman who vocalized a strong desire for peace.

While her time in Morocco highlighted the importance of religion and culture in international affairs, Kroes’s studies as a fellow gave her a firm understanding of geopolitics and the workings of international organizations. Her course work included not only classroom study but also an internship with the European Center for Conflict Prevention at The Hague.

After graduating from Sciences Po, Kroes spent four



Jeanette Kroes at Interpol

months in the West African nation of Togo, working with a regional NGO on a civil society peace-building project.

Kroes began her job at Interpol in 2006. Her first mission, carried out in Bangkok in November 2007, was well timed and a precursor of her work to follow. Only weeks earlier, a global manhunt coordinated by Interpol had led to the capture of a Canadian pedophile in northeastern Thailand. As Kroes made her rounds in Bangkok — stopping at UN regional headquarters, local NGOs, and foreign embassies — she felt pride in promoting and contributing to Interpol’s efforts to protect children by putting more such people behind bars.

“I am profoundly thankful to The Rotary Foundation for the exceptional opportunities to study the concept of peace,” said Kroes, speaking at Rotary’s International Assembly in January about her work. “But I am particularly thankful to the Rotarians from all over the world for the endless opportunities to see so many peacemakers in action.”



spotlight on watersafety

Thai water project a 'paycheck of the heart'

When Rotarian Dan Hall returned from leading a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team to Thailand in 2005, he brought back more than fond memories. His ideas and contacts turned into an international service project that is delivering clean water to thousands in the region he visited.

“Rotarians often refer to the ‘paycheck of the heart,’ and I got a big paycheck.”

Dan Hall

An agricultural specialist and member of the Rotary Club of Lee’s Summit Sunrise, Missouri, USA, Hall’s team included an electrician, a women’s health representative from a nongovernmental organization, a restaurant manager, and an events planner. During the five-week exchange, they visited farming facilities, traditional restaurants, and technical schools throughout central Thailand.

In Singburi Province, the team visited an elementary school that had recently installed a water purification system designed to combat waterborne diseases in the region’s poorest areas. The efficient reverse-osmosis filtration system removes all bacteria and viruses. One well provides clean drinking water for up to 400 students plus 250 villagers. Water not suitable for drinking can be used for toilets, cleaning, and other purposes.

The Rotary clubs of Singburi Veerachon and Bangkok, Thailand, and RI District 3350 (Thailand) helped the school finance and install the water purification system. To reach more beneficiaries in the region, however, the project needed an extra boost. Alec Napier, of the Rotary Club of Bangkok South, a partner club that has installed more than 70 such systems in Thailand, asked the team to take a letter back to their district governor to request further support.

Within a few months, Hall applied for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant that expanded the project by installing eight filtration systems in schools in eight villages,



Dan Hall (right) views a water purification system at a Thai village school during his 2005 GSE. Two years later, Hall and other Rotarians completed installing the same system in eight other schools as part of a Foundation Matching Grant project.

reaching more than 5,000 people.

Halls says the project, completed in 2007, was a huge return on the investment, both financially and psychologically.

“Rotarians often refer to the ‘paycheck of the heart,’ and I got a big paycheck,” he

says. “My little club took an investment of just \$2,000 and with the help of all the other partners produced a \$16,250 project. Seeing this coordination leading to satisfactory results only makes me want to try more such international projects in the future.”



April Veness (second from left) cuts the ribbon during ceremonies celebrating San Isidro’s new water system.

April’s Project brings clean water to Guatemalans year round

Water is a paradox for people living in the western highlands of Guatemala. During the May to November wet season, heavy rains wash out the unpaved roads that wind between villages at elevations of 10,000 feet or more. Yet residents can only get water by walking miles to fill buckets from sparsely located wells or using barrels to collect the runoff from rooftops.

Even on a good day, the 38-mile trip northeast from the city of San Marcos to the village of San Isidro takes five hours, says April Veness, associate professor of geography at the University of Delaware in the United States. She’s made the commute four times, helping to carry out a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant project to install a clean-water system there.

“The people are subsistence farmers, and the houses are scattered over a large area,” Veness says. “It is not a compact village, which meant that laying miles of pipeline from the springs to the village to provide potable water to each family was a huge and expensive challenge.”

The recipient of a Rotary Grant for University Teachers, Veness taught at Guatemala’s Centro Universitario de San Marcos from August 2006 to April 2007. She has also done extensive research on

Guatemalans living in both Delaware and their native country and the impact of income earned in the United States on both groups’ quality of life.

Veness and three of her former students at the University of Delaware, including 2002-03 Rotary Foundation Scholar Jennifer Koppenhaver, helped forge a network between RI District 7630 (Delaware and part of Maryland); the Rotary Club of San Marcos; Catholic Diocese of San Marcos Guatemala; and the San Isidro community.

In July, Veness traveled to San Isidro to help inaugurate the new water system.

“The positive impact of that service project is clearly evident in the happy faces of the San Isidro community that at long last got clean water and latrines, [and] in the honor bestowed on me at the inauguration ceremony when the project was named ‘April’s Project.’

“This year my role with Rotary as promoter, translator, facilitator, and mentor has certainly improved my skills as a public speaker, Spanish speaker, project administrator, and teacher-learner. It also embedded in me a rich web of support and fellowship that will be important to me for years to come.”

Son of GSE alums crusades for clean water around the globe

Ryan Hreljac is a typical 16-year-old. He plays sports, spends time on the computer, loves to sleep, and is up to his neck in schoolwork. But there’s one thing that makes him stand out, besides his lanky 6-foot, 6-inch frame.

He’s the founder of Ryan’s Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada. The organization has raised more than US\$3 million to fund nearly 320 water projects serving almost 500,000 people in 14 countries since its creation in 2001, according to his mother, Susan, who is its executive director and participated in a Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange (GSE) to France in 1992-93. Her husband, Mark, traveled on a GSE to Mexico in 1991-92.

Ryan’s interest in clean water started when he was only six. During a school charity drive for developing countries, his teacher rattled off a list of items that their donations could buy. She said \$70 could fund a well. As Ryan recalls, she told the class that people were dying because they didn’t have access to clean water.

“I thought that was unfair, so I decided to do something about it,” says Ryan, who was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 2004. “I went home and asked, ‘Can I have \$70 to build a well in Africa?’”

“Being good parents, we ignored him,” his mother says. “One night at dinner he was still pestering us. He said, ‘You don’t get it. Someone just died because they didn’t have clean water.’ I thought, ‘Whoa.’”

They decided to let him do extra chores to earn the money, and Ryan saved the money he earned in a cookie tin. Four



Ryan visits one of his foundation’s wells in Uganda.

months later, he presented the tin filled with \$75 to an official at WaterCan, a charity dedicated to clean water. He was told, however, that a well would actually cost about \$2,000.

“I said I’d do more chores,” Ryan says. He kept doing them, but in the meantime his story picked up momentum in the media, and donations started coming in. In 2000, he traveled to Uganda to visit the well that he helped finance.

Ryan has since become the face of his foundation, which has worked on water projects with Rotary clubs and has a Rotarian board member. He has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, been featured in *People* magazine, and met the Prince of Wales and former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. His foundation is also doing some joint water and sanitation projects with actor Matt Damon’s H2O Africa organization. In addition, Ryan has spoken many times to Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs.

Endowed scholarship's bottom line pleases former Rotary Volunteer

To Canadian David Ker, something just didn't add up when he taught accounting at Russia's Novosibirsk State University in 1994.

"There was a great difference between the old Soviet accounting system and that in the West," says Ker, a member of the Rotary Club of Vancouver South. He then began thinking about practical ways students could bring their business skills up to date.

The thought turned into action two years later, when he served as host counselor for Anton Sitnikov, a 1996-97 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar from Siberia.

"It was a rewarding experience, and I decided to establish an endowed fund with The Rotary Foundation . . . to provide three-month Cultural Scholarships at BCIT [British Columbia Institute of Technology] for students from Barnaul and Novosibirsk, Russia," says Ker, a past governor of RI District 5040 (British Columbia).

The scholarships give students the opportunity to learn business skills they can't acquire in Russia. The first Rotary Scholar funded by the David and Lis Ker Scholarship Endowment Fund, Roman Romanenko, came from Novosibirsk in 1999.

"Roman was an excellent student," Ker says. "He was interested in forestry, and I arranged visits for him to local sawmills and export lumber offices. I also talked

to Roman about the accounting profession. He must have been interested, as he joined an international accounting firm which had just established an office in Novosibirsk. He then completed his CPA course and is now a manager with Ernst & Young in Moscow."

Other students are also reaping success in their fields with Ker's help. Olga Yakovleva, a 2004 scholar, earned her CPA with Ernst & Young and is now managing the establishment of a new store in Novosibirsk for an Italian fashion house.

"I cannot even realize today how big the impact of this trip will be on my life, how many advantages it gave me," wrote 2006 scholar Roman Feldgendler in a letter to Ker. "I will never forget what you have done for me, and I hope sometime in the future I will be able to pay you back for everything."

Ker also played an instrumental role in forming Rotary clubs in Barnaul and Novosibirsk in the 1990s. In addition, he served as a Rotary Volunteer in Russia, funded by a Discovery Grant, where he developed a proposal for encouraging education and enterprise in farm villages.



David Ker (far right) receives an award from the Rotary Club of Barnaul, Russia, in recognition of the Foundation's Cultural Scholarships provided by the David and Lis Ker Scholarship Endowment Fund.

In 2004, the Kers were inducted as members of The Rotary Foundation's Arch C. Klumph Society. The society is named after the founder of the Foundation and honors Major Donors who contribute US\$250,000 or more.

Recently, the Kers delegated management of their endowed scholarship to Penny Offer of the Rotary Club of Vancouver Chinatown; and Bill Johnston and Jane Le Porte of the Rotary Club of Burnaby-Deer Lake.

"I am sure that they will enjoy the rewarding experience of working with these wonderful young people, who are now part of our family," David Ker says. "Thanks to Rotary for giving me the opportunity to establish this successful program."

Putting books into the hands of South Africa's children

Two years ago, Erin Raab was volunteering at a community crisis center supported by the Rotary Club of Pinetown, South Africa, when she fell into her current mission of supplying children with books.

"I wondered what I could do — I didn't speak Zulu, and I wasn't a social worker," says Raab, a 2005-06 Ambassadorial Scholar at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. "But I did have experience in education, so I started an after-school program."

Through the program and helping teachers at one of the schools, Raab learned about the lack of books in KwaNdengezi Township, a semirural area 45 miles northwest of Durban. She discovered that none of the nine schools in the township had a library.

"While there was no way to get enough books for each school to have their own library, I thought there might be a chance to start a community library," says Raab, whose scholarship was sponsored by RI District 6060 (Missouri, USA). After discussing her plan with organizations that had similar goals and with local govern-

ment officials, she reached a point where "it seemed like it could really happen."

Aided by Pinetown Rotarian Bill Draper and the local South African Metropolitan Library, Raab drafted plans for developing both a permanent, multiple-room library and a smaller interim library. The Pinetown club is applying for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to help fund the interim library, which Raab and Draper hope will be operational sometime this year.

"I quickly saw the need for the project."

Cristianne Wendler

The former Rotary Scholar would like to see the library offer residents the chance to browse books, use computer terminals, and participate in educational programs.

Raab, who is working on her doctoral dissertation in comparative educational policy, says she received help on the project from Books for the World, a literacy program headed by District 5890 (Texas, USA) and the Rotary Club of Bedfordview,

South Africa, and from other Rotary clubs in District 9300.

"I drove 500 kilometers to the program's book center in Johannesburg and stuffed my car with five boxes of books," Raab says. She later flew back with a wish list from teachers and selected a larger load of books, which the Pinetown club shipped to KwaNdengezi.

In addition, her hometown school of Greenleaf Elementary in Apple Valley, Minnesota, USA, collected more than 65 boxes of books for the interim library, which Rotarians in Houston, Texas, will ship to Johannesburg.

Coordinating shipment of the books to Houston is 2002-03 Ambassadorial Scholar Cristianne Wendler, who is pursuing a master's degree in public health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. Wendler volunteered at Books for the World's distribution center as a student at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and later as director of Ikageng Itireleng AIDS Ministry, a nonprofit organization that assists children orphaned by AIDS.

"My host club, the Rotary Club of

Roodepoort Central [South Africa] was involved, so I sorted and helped teachers pick out books," Wendler says. "I quickly saw the need for the project."

Her work with the AIDS ministry also took her to classrooms, where, like Raab, she became further devoted to the project.

"Almost none had libraries, and most of the children share books," she recalls. "And because there aren't enough for each child to have, children aren't allowed to take books home."

After joining the Rotary Club of Madison Breakfast USA, in 2007, Wendler persuaded the club to start a Wisconsin Books for the World branch. In the past two years, she and fellow club members, along with local high school students, have collected more than 1,000 boxes of books.

Although she will return to South Africa to work in the nonprofit AIDS sector after she finishes her master's degree in May, Wendler leaves little doubt that she'll continue working for literacy.

"It just varies whether I'll be helping collect the books or distributing them."



Erin Raab (center, seated), with students from the after-school program she started in Durban, South Africa



Cristianne Wendler (left) and fellow volunteer Carol Dombroski with boxes of books they collected in Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Rotary-UN Day celebrates common goals

Not even malaria could keep Richelieu Allison of Sierra Leone from speaking at the United Nations on Rotary-UN Day, held on 3 November. The former Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program participant had just recovered from a bout with the disease when he addressed more than 1,300 Rotarians, UN officials, Rotaractors, Interactors, and alumni from 48 countries.



“I had to do something as an individual to make sure that my country would get back on its feet.”

Richelieu Allison

Allison told how civil war in his native Liberia forced his family to flee their community in 1990. “I witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of conflict,” he said. “I experienced starvation, I saw summary executions, and I witnessed the recruitment of some of my friends who, as young as eight, were sent to the battlefield.”

It was extremely difficult, Allison said, “walking through checkpoints, knowing that you and your family can be executed at any moment by just anyone with a gun. For three months, it was total madness. We were lucky to have survived.”

Once back home, Allison made a promise to himself: “I had to do something as an individual to make sure that my country would get back on its feet.”

In 2001, he started the West African

Youth Network, which helps young people pursue non-violent solutions to problems. Based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the organization now has offices in 11 countries, including Liberia. He’s also organizing a Rotary peace caravan to travel through various African countries and writing his first book, an analysis of the conflict in Liberia.

“As Martin Luther King once said, ‘We don’t make peace by talking to our friends. We make peace by talking to our enemies,’” said Allison, whose address drew a standing ovation. “We will make peace by following the tradition of Rotary International, by training more peace ambassadors who can go into our communities and make a difference.”

Held annually, Rotary-UN Day celebrates the two organizations’ partnership since 1945, when 49 Rotarians served as delegates, advisers, and consultants at the conference that founded the UN. Rotary holds the highest consultative status offered to nongovernmental organizations by the Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies.

Ban Ki-moon, UN secretary-general, and Kiyotaka Akasaka, UN undersecretary-general for communications and public information, praised Rotary’s work in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals, which aim to slash poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other social ills by 2015. But more work is needed.

“It is intolerable that 72 million children are not in primary school. Maternal health remains a scandal, and HIV is growing faster than treatments can be



While a 2006 Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program participant at Thailand’s Chulalongkorn University, Allison shares a special moment with a child during a visit to a tsunami relief building project.

made available,” Akasaka said, adding that climate change threatens to undermine work toward all the goals.

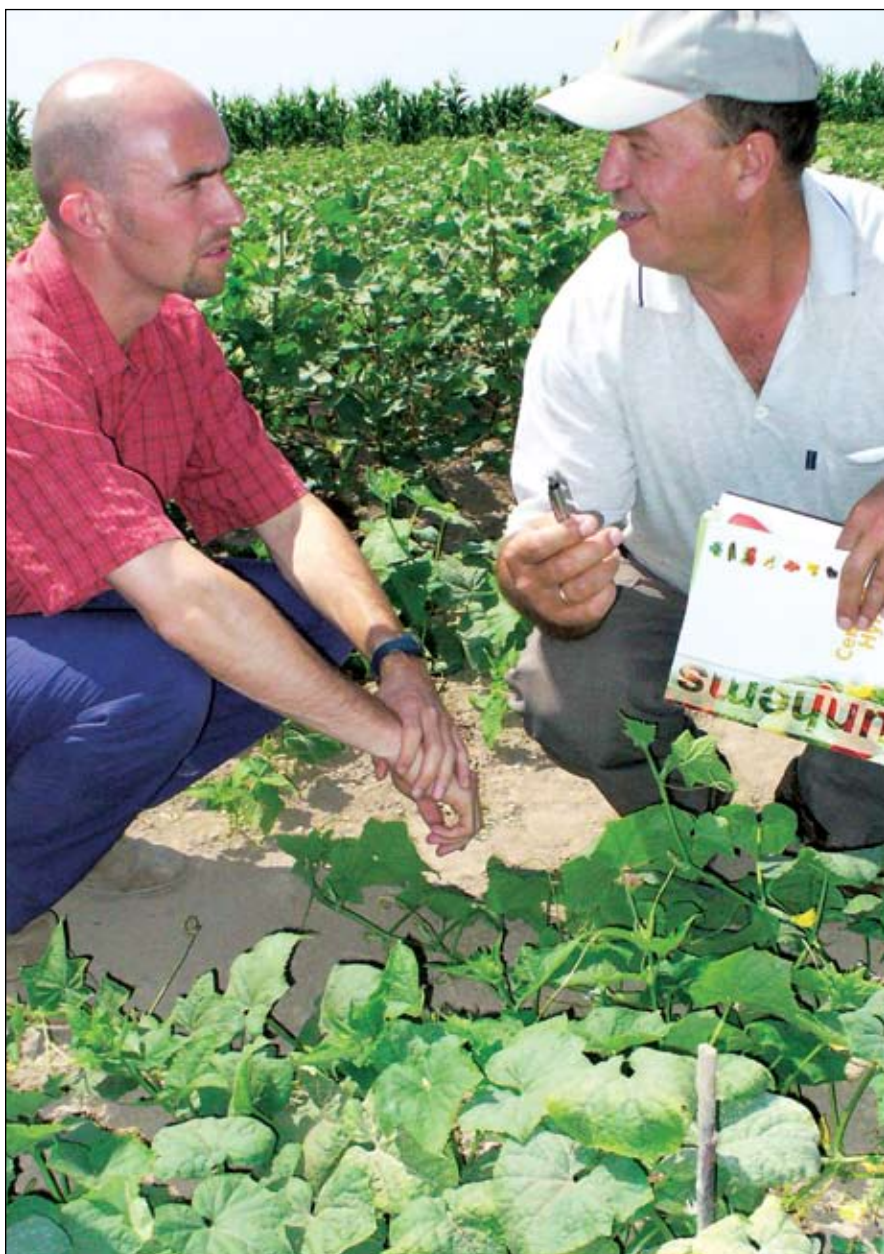
Stephen Nicholas, professor at Columbia University Medical Center’s Department of Pediatrics and a member of the Rotary Club of Yonkers, New York, said that better, cheaper medication and intervention during pregnancy has greatly diminished the number of HIV-infected infants at the Harlem neighborhood clinic he founded. He also helped develop a family AIDS program in the Dominican Republic, which aims to reduce the rates of mother-to-child HIV transmissions and children orphaned by AIDS.

Other Rotary-UN Day highlights included panel discussions on health, hunger, water, and literacy. Brian Stoyel, of the Rotary Club of Saltash, Cornwall, England, reported that Tanzanians are able to buy mosquito nets below cost



Richelieu Allison speaks at the United Nations on Rotary-UN Day. At right is Rotary International President-elect Dong Kurn Lee.

through a Rotarian-supported program that has helped reduce malaria by 64 percent in targeted areas. John Boot, of the Rotary Club of Summerland, British Columbia, Canada, described how Kenyan villagers have built 12,000 concrete rainwater collection tanks and planted thousands of trees as a natural purifier.



Spurway (left) visits a demonstration field where farmers and agronomists planted vegetables to learn about diversifying crops and assessing their market value.

Building peace through economic development in Kyrgyzstan

Colin Spurway of Scotland had been teaching and managing international development and conflict prevention programs in Central and South Asia for four years when he realized something was missing.

“I had limitations in my knowledge of the theories of development in conflict resolution,” Spurway says. “I was concerned that maybe the theories underlying the practical work were naive and simplistic.”

A 2003-05 Rotary World Peace Fellowship to study at the University of Queensland in Australia helped him step up to a whole new level of work in the field.

“It was an investment in me that I genuinely appreciate. I’m now running a very complicated, multiheaded project in southern Kyrgyzstan for an organization called Mercy Corps,” says Spurway, who manages a staff of 40.

Funded by USAID and Mercy Corps, and locally in the region, the project is building peace through economic development in 47 communities. A major focus is placing young apprentices with master tradespeople and craftspeople for intensive on-the-job training.

“One of the elements that is most likely to fuel conflict is unemployment and the limited decision-making role young people have in their communities,” Spurway says, “which is why [the project] is funded by USAID’s

Conflict Mitigation office, rather than its Economic Development office.”

Promoting access to innovations in sustainable business and agricultural practices as well as technical and financial assistance is another thrust of the effort, which began in 2005 and is scheduled to be completed this year. The entire project is designed to be sustainable through skills, equipment, and revolving community funds that will be left in place once USAID’s and Mercy Corps’ roles end.

“I love this part of the world and am pleased to work with a good organization dedicated to peaceful community development,” Spurway says.



WHY I BECAME A ROTARIAN

Pounding a news beat in the name of peace

By Daniel Sturgeon

In November 2003, while I was on my honeymoon, a representative from The Rotary Foundation called to inform me that I had been selected as a Rotary World Peace Fellow. Later, when the official letter of acceptance arrived, I was struck by the last sentence: “We look forward to a lifelong relationship with you.” Those few words were, for me, profound.

My two fellowship years in Tokyo were quite productive. Not only did I meet some amazing professors who remain my friends today, but I also was able to fully engage with the foreign policy community in Tokyo, working at the Japan Institute of International Affairs and studying extensively at the United Nations University. While I primarily studied at International Christian University (ICU), I spent many evenings with diplomats, journalists, and foreign affairs experts. Tokyo itself was my campus, its many internationally minded denizens my professors.

My topic of study at ICU was the controversial Yasukuni Shrine, a Shinto memorial in central Tokyo that, according to the shrine’s leaders and many conservative Japanese, houses the spirits of Japan’s military war dead, including 14 Class A war criminals. My thesis sought to understand why the shrine is so controversial and a flash point for East Asian relations.

After graduating from ICU, I worked for a year for Yoichi Funabashi, editor in chief of *Asahi Shimbun*, Japan’s second-largest newspaper. Funabashi is one of the foremost experts on Northeast Asian politics and conflict resolution. I quickly put to use my research on the region, researching and editing for his weekly columns and recently released book *The Peninsula Question*, an extensive examination of the second Korean nuclear crisis and the efforts of the six-party talks to resolve it.

In 2007, I relocated to Washington, D.C., and began working as a staff reporter for the *Tokyo Shimbun* and *Chunichi Shimbun*’s Washington bureau. I cover the U.S. State Department and U.S. foreign relations, U.S.-Japanese relations, and the 2008 presidential campaign. Although I never planned to be a journalist, my training and experience in Northeast Asian politics, peace, and conflict resolution has allowed me to work in this field.

“As a journalist, I have an important job to do in promoting world peace.”

Daniel Sturgeon



Daniel Sturgeon

As a journalist, I have an important job to do in promoting world peace. The United States and Japan represent the largest and second-largest economies in the world. Despite a seemingly stable relationship, subtle misunderstandings between the two countries still remain. Last summer, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution asking Japan to “formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility” for its use of “comfort women” during World War II. Different perspectives also remain on the meaning of Hiroshima and the validity of the Tokyo war trials. These issues, while seemingly settled, are becoming increasingly important as changing dynamics in Northeast Asia cause Japan to look anew at its military-political relationship with the United States.

Yet the same two countries also represent both the majority of Rotarians and number of outgoing Ambassadorial Scholars in the world. It is partly for this reason that four years after receiving that acceptance letter, I decided to join Rotary. In September, I was inducted into the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill. Although I never expected it to happen so quickly, I knew that, for me, a “lifelong relationship” would include becoming a Rotarian.

It is as a Rotarian and a journalist that I hope to be one of many stewards of an important relationship between two fine nations – the United States and Japan. Although the resolution of active conflicts is important, it is through the ongoing promotion of mutual understanding that we achieve and maintain world peace.

Are you interested in becoming a Rotarian?

If you’re interested in joining a Rotary club, please complete the Prospective Member Form on the RI Web site at www.rotary.org. Click on About Us at the top, then click on Prospective Member Form at the middle of the page. Be sure to include information about your experience as a Rotary Foundation alumnus/alumna. Your form will be sent to Rotary district and club leaders in your area for follow-up.



Have you referred a potential Foundation program participant lately?

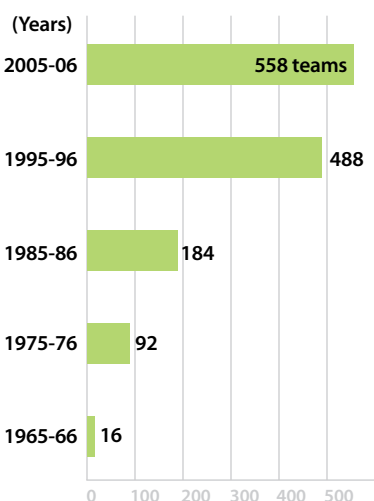
Most Rotary Foundation alumni agree that they benefited greatly from participating in a Foundation program. Have you ever wondered how you could offer someone the same opportunity you had?



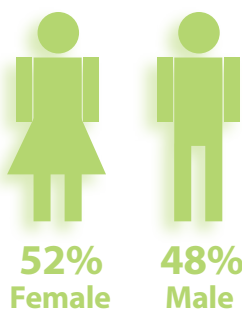
You can open the door by referring a well-qualified person to a Foundation program. Just contact your Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator listed on page 12, who will put you in touch with the appropriate Rotarians. Please also consider volunteering to serve on the local selection committee that chooses the next Group Study Exchange team or Ambassadorial Scholar. Your alumni coordinator can help you contact that committee as well.

GSE fact sheet

History of Group Study Exchange teams awarded



2006-07 GSE team members by gender*



*Percentages include team members and team leaders

Australian’s career gives thought for food

Alex Buchanan has helped put food on the table for people in developing countries when they need it most. A food technologist and member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Buchanan created the high-protein Australian Milk Biscuit 25 years ago and later the High Energy Biscuit. Today, the biscuits are not only a staple of his country’s foreign food aid but are also permanently stockpiled by the Australian government for emergency relief purposes.

“I was drawn to Rotary because it changed my life with the opportunity to work, travel, and study.”

Alex Buchanan

While with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, Buchanan also developed an affordable infant food made from rice and soy flour that has been commercially produced in Thailand for more than 20 years. Listed in *Who’s Who in Australia* since 1971, he received the Australian government’s Centenary medal in 2003 “for service to Australian society in food science and technology.”

Buchanan’s long connection with Rotary began with a 1959-60 Ambassadorial

Scholarship that took him to Iowa State University in the United States.

“I was drawn to Rotary because it changed my life with the opportunity to work, travel, and study in the United States,” Buchanan says. “This led to the experiences and qualifications [master of science degree] to get a job with Australia’s national research organization.”

Buchanan has been a member of four Rotary clubs: one in Thailand and three in Australia, including the Melbourne club since 2000. His favorite Rotary project is one that created the East Timor Roofing Company and a campus for the Dili Institute of Technology in Bacau, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The company was established by the Rotary clubs of Melbourne and Doncaster, with financial support from the Rotary Club of Adelaide and the Shell Foundation.

“It now employs 15 people and is operating independently and profitably,” Buchanan says. “We also started a revolving loan fund which helped more than 200 locals, mostly women, develop microenterprises in and around Bacau.”

In addition, Buchanan has been very active in obtaining Foundation Match-



Alex Buchanan

ing Grants on behalf of the Melbourne club for service projects in Cambodia, East Timor, and India. A Paul Harris Fellow (see “Former scholar honors Rotary adviser by giving back,” page 7), he has also worked closely with Past RI President Royce Abbey in establishing the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowed Fund in The Rotary Foundation. The fund has provided scholarships to 10 students from developing countries for agricultural training in Australia since 2001.

In addition to professional honors, Buchanan has received Rotary district awards for “providing nourishment in underprivileged countries suffering from famine” and other service efforts. One other recognition is also especially precious.

“My father was a dairy factory manager in our small village and the outstanding community leader,” Buchanan explains. “As a boy, I always felt that I was in his shadow. Later, I [worked] in Melbourne. I traveled extensively and became well known in the dairy industry throughout the state. One day, at a dairy industry conference, my dad was introduced as ‘Alex Buchanan’s father.’ The pride on his face was a revelation to me and a joy to behold.”



Michael Comley (far right) with his wife, Margaret, and Abingdon club president Nigel Warner

Former scholar honors Rotary adviser by giving back

By Norman Jetmundsen

One of my greatest dreams came true when I was awarded a 1980-81 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to study at the University of Oxford. Before I left the United States for England, I was assigned a Rotary adviser, Michael Comely, of the Rotary Club of Abingdon.

My beginning was less than auspicious, however. When I arrived in England, my luggage didn't make it, and I learned that because of a miscommunication, Magdalen College had assigned me no room for the coming year. Here I was, thousands of miles from my Alabama home, in a place where I had no friends, no room, and no luggage — not exactly the way I had envisioned starting my year.

Late on my first afternoon, a college porter told me that I had visitors: Michael and Margaret Comely had come looking for me. It took about a nanosecond to realize that they were warm and friendly people, and I immediately took a liking to them. I "entertained" them in the Middle Common Room at Magdalen, where we spent a good while getting acquainted. They must have understood my distress at the day's events, because they later took me out for a lovely meal, which raised my spirits considerably.

“Rotary’s generosity gave me a chance to realize another lifelong ambition.”

Norman Jetmundsen

That was the beginning of a wonderful Rotary relationship. Throughout my year as a Rotary Scholar, Michael and Margaret took me on numerous outings to the Cotswolds, where we toured beautiful villages, historical sites, and churches, and ate in many old pubs. They also hosted me for delicious home-cooked meals. I had several pleasant visits with my sponsor club in Abingdon and met a number of friendly and interesting Rotarians.



Norman Jetmundsen

When I stayed for a second year to finish my degree, instead of quietly disappearing after their official duties were over, the Comelys continued their hospitality and friendship. Later, they came to my wedding in Alabama, and we've spent time together on my several trips back to England.

Rotary's generosity gave me a chance to realize another lifelong ambition. I later wrote a novel, *The Soulbane Stratagem* (John Hunt Publishing, 1999), based on my years abroad and set in Oxford, and a sequel, *The Soulbane Illusion* (O Books, 2003). Magdalen agreed to host the first book's launch, and the Comelys not only came to that celebration but also arranged for another Cotswolds tour several days later.

If anyone can be said to epitomize Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, it is Michael, a faithful Rotarian for more than 40 years. I can never repay the Comelys for their generosity and hospitality. Later, as a Rotarian myself, and having seen firsthand the value of the Foundation's scholarships program, I became a Paul Harris Fellow in order to give other students the same opportunity Rotary gave me. [Anyone who contributes US\$1,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Programs Fund, or has that amount contributed in their name, may become a Paul Harris Fellow. The recognition is named in honor of Rotary's founder.]

My Rotary Club of Birmingham-Sunrise (Alabama, USA) strongly supports the Foundation's programs by offering to match gifts for members who desire to become Paul Harris Fellows. When the opportunity arose to add to my Paul Harris Fellow giving, I was delighted to designate it in honor of Michael Comely.

I will be forever grateful to The Rotary Foundation and the Comelys, whose generosity has allowed one person's life to be enriched beyond measure.

Stay connected through the Rotary Foundation Alumni Network

The Rotary Foundation Alumni Network (RFAN) was created by the Foundation Trustees in October. RFAN is the Foundation's official alumni association, engaging and connecting former Rotary World Peace Fellows, Ambassadorial Scholars, Group Study Exchange team leaders and members, and other Foundation program participants. It also celebrates the experiences and achievements of alumni, and helps them maintain a mutually beneficial, long-term relationship with each other and Rotary. All Rotary Foundation alumni and Foundation alumni associations are members of the network.

The Rotary Foundation Alumni Advisory Committee structured RFAN and developed these goals for the network:

- Develop opportunities for current program participants and alumni to participate in Rotary activities and offer opportunities for involvement in the family of Rotary
- Help the Foundation stay connected with alumni and reconnect with those who aren't currently active in the family of Rotary

- Provide leadership for annual meetings of program participants, alumni, and friends in conjunction with Rotary International conventions
- Assist the Foundation in assembling and streamlining alumni contact information at the district and international levels
- Support the Foundation in gathering quantitative and qualitative outcomes from alumni that can be used to promote Rotary programs

RFAN's first meeting will take place at the Rotary Alumni Celebration (see page 1) on 13-14 June in Los Angeles, just before the start of the 2008 RI Convention. Thereafter, the network will meet at future celebrations before the Rotary convention each year.

More than 40 Foundation alumni associations are active around the world. For more information about joining or forming a Foundation alumni association or about RFAN, contact your Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator (see page 12).



Monika Lee/Rotary Images

Former Ambassadorial Scholar Katie Krueger of Madison, Wisconsin, USA, speaks during a panel session on the Foundation at Rotary's International Assembly in January. Active alumni like Krueger, who continues to help run a school-lunch program she cofounded during her scholarship year in Senegal, are the backbone of The Rotary Foundation Alumni Network.

Are you interested in joining Rotaract?

Rotaract is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young men and women ages 18-30. Rotaract clubs are either community- or university-based and sponsored by a local Rotary club, making them true Rotary partners in service and key members of the Rotary family. It's the perfect way for recent Foundation program participants to stay involved with Rotary if they aren't yet ready to join a Rotary club.

Learn more about Rotaract at www.rotary.org.



Do you belong to a Foundation alumni association?

Rotary Foundation alumni associations participate in local Rotary activities in a variety of ways. For more information about starting or joining an alumni association in your area, contact the nearest Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator (see list on page 12).

Save the date!

- ✓ The second annual Rotary Alumni Celebration will be held 20 June 2009 as a pre-convention event of the RI Convention in Birmingham, England.
- ✓ The second Rotary World Peace Symposium will also be held 18-19 June 2009 as a pre-convention event of the RI Convention in Birmingham, England.

More details to follow at www.rotary.org.



U.S. visit enriches GSE team from the Netherlands

A police helicopter ride over Los Angeles, a television interview, and a district conference held on the *Queen Mary* highlighted a Dutch Group Study Exchange team’s kaleidoscopic visit to Southern California (District 5260) last April.

Led by Bob Boersma, a former fire chief and member of the Rotary Club of Apeldoorn Nord, the District 1560 (The Netherlands) team not only experienced signature attractions like Hollywood, Disneyland, and the Getty Museum but also got a close-up look at how a major U.S. city deals with the dark side of life. At the Glendale Police Department, for example, the team learned how a crime scene investigation is conducted.

“We found out that it is not quite like in the series [*CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*],” the team reported on its blog (www.gse2007.nl). “It takes a whole lot longer than 45 minutes to solve the cases, and overall they solve about 50 percent.”

At one of California’s drug courts, attorney Elise Zeelenberg and Roos van Dijk,

who works at a shelter for drug-addicted prostitutes, saw how a 12-step program is helping to change the lives of people with substance abuse problems.

“The judge was very caring, warm, and motivated people by encouraging the positive,” the team reported. “Everybody clapped when something good happened or clients reached a milestone.”

Through an auction organized by the Rotary Club of Antelope Valley Sunrise, the team raised more than US\$2,900 for a school library operated by Inca Educa, a nongovernmental organization in Cuzco, Peru. Team members auctioned their wooden shoes and a soccer ball received from the L.A. Galaxy professional soccer team to benefit the school.

“You represented your country well and also represented our brothers and sisters in Rotary from the Netherlands in a professional and caring way,” Ruben Gonzalez, of the Rotary Club of Rosamond, told the GSE team.



The GSE team gathers next to a vehicle used to haul borate from a Boron, California, mine, one of the richest in the world. From left: Wouter Klomp, Ryan Hermelijn, team leader Bob Boersma (on wheel), Elise Zeelenberg, and Roos van Dijk.

Rotary clubs’ water project honors late GSE team leader

Rotary clubs in Bangladesh and the United States have responded to the loss of Munawwar Ahmad by working to further the cause for which he gave his life — providing safe drinking water to those in need.

Ahmad, 69, died on 6 September from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident two days earlier while delivering water and supplies to flood-ravaged east-central Bangladesh. He was working on behalf of Anjuman-e-Mufidul Islam, a religious and humanitarian organization. Three other volunteers from the organization were also killed in the accident.

Married with four children, Ahmad was an agricultural equipment engineer and chairman of a number of shipping and textile companies. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Chittagong since 1975, and served as club president and as District 3280’s Youth Exchange chair.

Longtime friend and Past District Governor Aminuzzaman Bhuiyan remembers Ahmad as a modest man and extols his numerous contributions through Rotary and other organizations. “He was instrumental in setting up schools and health facilities” and helped families apply for scholarships and secure livelihoods, Bhuiyan says.



Munawwar Ahmad

Ahmad as “a respectful gentleman who was very kind to everyone he met. He guided his team in such a way that he was not an imposing father figure, but rather a mentor.”

District 6560 has honored Ahmad by applying for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant to help fund a project designed to bring 35 tube wells to Barisal in south-central Bangladesh. Approximately 70 percent to 90 percent of the shallow wells in the district contain arsenic, a chemical known to cause cancer and heart damage. Upon completion, the project would provide at least 30 to 40 families access to each of the deeper, arsenic-free wells.

District 3280 Governor Rafiq Ahmed Siddique stresses the need for such projects in Bangladesh. “Our problems are manifold: too much water during floods and often a lack of safe drinking water, which causes us to have to sink tube wells.”

The Rotary Club of Barisal and RI districts 3280, 6060 (Missouri, USA), and 6560 have joined in committing funds for the proposed project as a fitting memorial to Ahmad, whom Siddique calls “undoubtedly one of the most dedicated Rotarians of our district.”

“ [Ahmad was] undoubtedly one of the most dedicated Rotarians in our district.”

Rafiq Ahmed Siddique

Ahmad was active in many organizations, including the Bangladesh Cooperative Book Society and the Bangladesh Kidney Foundation. He was also president of the Renaissance Kindergarten School in Chittagong and honorary professor at Chittagong Engineering College (now called Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology).

In early 2007, Ahmad led a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team to District 6560 in Indiana, USA.

Salim Najjar, assistant governor of District 6560 and GSE cochair, describes

What your gift can do

A gift to The Rotary Foundation can profoundly improve the lives of people around the world. Here are just some of the humanitarian needs your gift can help meet:

\$100

can provide a cooking stove to a needy family in Guatemala

\$250

can provide 42 mosquito nets to prevent malaria in Uganda

\$500

can provide one borewell that serves 65 people in India

\$1,000

can provide a computer and English-language software to a primary school in Malaysia

\$10,000

can provide 250 kits containing lenses, sutures, eye shields, and other essentials for cataract surgeries in Egypt

Any amount contributed can also support future Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary World Peace Fellows, and Group Study Exchange teams. Please remember that whatever your capacity to give, your gift can make a real difference.

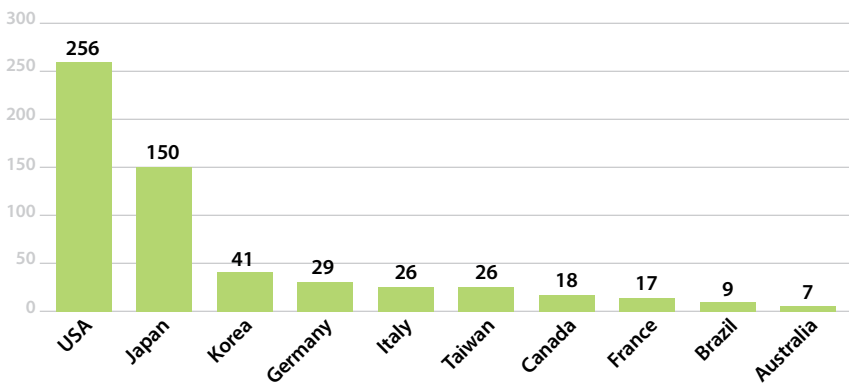
If you would like to support the Foundation’s programs that promote world understanding, goodwill, and peace, complete a *Global Contribution Form* found on the RI Web site at www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/123en_write.pdf and send it to:

Alumni Relations
The Rotary Foundation
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201-3698
USA

For more information about contributing, contact alumni@rotary.org.

fact sheet

Top 10 countries sponsoring Ambassadorial Scholars in 2006-07



CLASS NOTES

Send your submission with the subject "Class Notes" to alumni@rotary.org. *Note: The Rotary Foundation reserves the right to edit all Class Notes submissions for space and clarity.*

1950s

Pierre Jacobs (AS50-51 Belgium to USA) has been a professor emeritus of the Faculté Polytechnique de Mons since 1990. He joined the Rotary Club of Mons, his sponsor club, in 1957 and served as president in 1970-71. He has held a variety of club and district offices, mainly related to The Rotary Foundation.

Laxmi M. Singhvi (AS53-54 India to USA) died in New Delhi on 6 October at age 76. He had a distinguished career as a member of the Indian Parliament, senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, and High Commissioner of India to the UK. In 1995-96, he received The Rotary Foundation's Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award.

1960s

Hadar Cars (AS61-62 Sweden to USA) is councilor and vice president of the Stockholm City Council and senior adviser to the European Public Affairs Corporation (FIPRA). He has been a member of the Swedish and European parliaments, and also served as Swedish minister of trade.

Robert W. Hall (AS63-64 USA to Uganda) is associate director for bibliographic services at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, USA. He served as a U.S. naval officer from 1966 to 1970 and is preparing to retire from his 35-year career in college and university librarianship. He and his wife live in Shelburne, Vermont.

Jan van Zyl (GSEtm67-68 South Africa to USA) is a city counselor in Pretoria, South Africa, where he has served as mayor and city council member. He has also served as international relations officer for South Africa. "Rotary inspired me to give my full attention to the improvement of international relations," Van Zyl says of his GSE experience. As a member of the Rotary Club of Pretoria, he has served as a Rotary club president, district governor, president's representative, and Council on Legislation delegate.

1970s

Marc Bayliss (AS70-71 USA to Austria; RV92, 99 USA to Yugoslavia) joined the Rotary Club of Medford, Oregon, USA, in 1978, and served as president in 1993-94 and assistant governor in 1997-98. In 1997, he and his fellow Rotarians provided medical relief and helped establish a new Rotary club in Kamchatka, Russia. They have sent more than \$12.2 million of medical supplies there since then. He is also a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation.

Joel Timothy Kolosick (AS73-74 USA to Austria) is retiring in May as a professor of music at the University of Arizona. He and his wife of 32 years met in Vienna, where he had remained for two years after his scholarship.

Geoff Tansey (AS73-74 England to USA) is working on a fair and sustainable food system as a Joseph Rowntree Visionary for a Just and Peaceful World, a five-year grant project of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. He has served as senior consultant for the intellectual property and development programs at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva and the Quaker International Affairs Programme in Ottawa, and as a consultant for the UK Department for International Development. His latest book, *The Future Control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity, and Food Security*, will be published in 2009.

Kent Jones (AS74-75 USA to Germany) is a professor of economics at Babson College in Massachusetts, USA, specializing in research on the World Trade Organization. After his scholarship year at the University of Bonn, he graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, USA, the Fletcher School at Tufts University, and HEI (Graduate Institute of International Studies) at the University of Geneva.

Colin Vickers (AS76-77 Canada to Wales) recently retired as director and CEO of a local school district and an educator with 18 years of experience. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Nipissing, Ontario, Canada, and happy to be named a Paul Harris Fellow by the members of the Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise, where he served as president.

Seppo Viitala (AS76-77 Finland to Switzerland) has served as a commercial secretary in the Embassy of Finland in Norway and Iceland and in various international executive positions, including senior consultant for European Union technical assistance projects and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Russia, Mongolia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovakia, and Kosovo. He was awarded the Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olaf by the king of Norway for his service. He is now retired and lives in Espoo with his wife, Marja.

Vivian Dunn (GSEtm77-78 England to USA) reports that he and his fellow GSE team members from District 1110 "have stayed in touch ever since, meeting up for reunions every two to three years. Helpfully, we all live back in the district again." On 10 November, the team got together for its 30th reunion and "reflected on what a remarkable and life-changing experience the GSE trip had been for each one of us."



GSE team members and their wives: (from left) Keith Parfitt, Ann Dunn, Graham Elderfield, Lynne Linley, Brian Russell, Lyn Elderfield, Vivian Dunn, Jenny Parfitt, Tony Linley, Joan Russell

Lawrence Semetko (AS77-78 USA to New Zealand) teaches at the Josephine Brighton Skills Center in Wyandotte, Michigan, USA, a school for students with disabilities.

Michael Dowling (AS78-79 USA to Germany) is professor of innovation and technology management at the University of Regensburg in Germany. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Regensburg and chairs the 2007-08 scholarships subcommittee for District 1880. He and his wife, **Rita** (AS81-82 Germany to USA), have three children.



Dowling

1980s

Dombo Chibanda (AS81-82 Zimbabwe to England) is an environmental health consultant in Harare, Zimbabwe, and joined the Rotary Club of Hunyani in December.

Rita Dowling (AS81-82 Germany to USA) lives in Regensburg, Germany, and is a vocational high school teacher in Schwandorf. She and her husband, **Michael** (AS78-79 USA to Germany), have three children.

Lamar Kerley (AS81-82 USA to England) is a licensed marriage and family therapist. He has worked in the Kern County Mental Health Department in Bakersfield, California, USA, for 20 years and is senior analyst for the implementation of an electronic medical record. He has visited about 70 countries and continues to enjoy traveling, along with gardening and theater.



Kerley

Brad Lauman (AS81-82 USA to Spain) joined The Rotary Foundation as manager of the Scholarships Department in December. He has 20 years of experience in international education and nonprofit management. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Rockford, Illinois.

Sonia Khosrof (AS87-88 Tunisia to Belgium) is an assistant professor at Ecole Supérieure des Sciences et Techniques de la Santé et de Tunis. After her return to Tunisia, she continued her studies in microbiological nutrition, taught as a professor of paramedics, and obtained her PhD in biology in 2006. She's been active in many national and international volunteer organizations as a result of her experience with Rotary. Married in 1997, she has three children: twins Dorra and Rym, 5, and Slim, 3.

Music Alumni Reunion



Japanese alumni who studied music as Ambassadorial Scholars gathered in Yokohama, Japan, with Rotarians to celebrate their music careers.

Bringing peace through education



Simon Milward (RPCSP07-08 England to Thailand), shown here with some of his ethnic Karen colleagues, recently worked with the Karen Teachers Working Group, which trains teachers and teacher-trainers, on the Thai-Burmese border.

PROGRAM CODES

AS – Ambassadorial Scholarships GSEtl – Group Study Exchange (team leader) GSEtm – Group Study Exchange (team member)
RPCSP – Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program RV – Rotary Volunteers RWPF – Rotary World Peace Fellowships

CLASS NOTES

1980s

Jean Raby (AS87-88 Canada to England) is a managing director and co-head of the France and Belgium investment banking division at Goldman Sachs in Paris.

Juan-Carlos Arias Ranedo (GSEtm88-89 Spain to USA; GSEtl96-97 Spain to Argentina) has been a detective and criminologist since 1984. His Agencia de Detectives does 15 percent of its work pro bono for people in need. He has published many books and articles on his field of work.

Jeanne Gang (AS88-89 USA to Switzerland) is a principal of Studio Gang Architects in Chicago. The firm's work has been internationally recognized, including at the 2004 Venice Biennale as one of six firms representing the United States. Aqua, an 82-story residential and hotel skyscraper in Chicago designed by her firm, is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Norman Oder (GSEtm88-89 USA to South Africa) is news editor of *Library Journal* in New York City; operates New York Like a Native (www.nylikeanative.com), a tour-guide business specializing in Brooklyn; and writes the watchdog blog Atlantic Yards Report, tracking the city's most controversial development project. He has returned three times to South Africa as a student and journalist since his GSE trip.

Ian Castle (AS89-90 England to USA) is an accredited professional mediator utilizing the psychotherapeutic method at Regents College in London. He received his master's degree in social policy at the University of Nottingham and is working in victim-offender mediation at Suffolk Reparation and Mediation Service.

Farrukh Jamal Syed (AS89-90 Pakistan to England) is technical director at a plastics engineering business in Karachi, Pakistan. His company made the vaccine carriers that are being used in Pakistan and Afghanistan through a PolioPlus Partners grant.

1990s

Fernando Ramos Gourcy (AS90-91 Mexico to Spain) is a professor and researcher at the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, where he also heads the Academic Exchange and Scholarships Department. He obtained his second master's degree in computer science and is now pursuing a doctoral degree at Almería University in Spain. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Encarnación de Díaz since 2005.

James Ketterer (AS91-92 USA to Tunisia) is deputy provost of the State University of New York, USA.

Elizabeth K. Hanson (GSEtm94-95 USA to Japan) earned her PhD in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2005 and is now on the faculty at the University of South Dakota. She would love to reconnect with past GSE friends, associates, and sponsors (ekhanson@usd.edu).

Alvin G. Wee (AS94-95 Singapore to USA) is associate professor and director of the Division of Oral Facial Prosthetics/Dental Oncology in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He can be reached at awee@unmc.edu.

Carol J. Franks (GSEtm95-96 USA to Sweden) is an associate professor of music at Troy University in Alabama, USA. She joined the Rotary Club of Troy in 1996 and served as its first female president. She's held several positions in RI District 6880 and will serve as its governor in 2009-10.

Vincent Sithole (AS95-96 South Africa to USA) heads the department of business management at Parktown College in Johannesburg. He is working to establish adult training programs in entrepreneurship, business communication, and management.

Tomoko Takeuchi (AS95-96 Japan to Switzerland) is a soprano singer based in France and performs internationally. She is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Sarah Klimes Datz (AS96-97 USA to France) is director of donor relations at The Rotary Foundation. She and her husband, Edward, live in Chicago.

Michael Chandler (AS97-98 USA to Germany) is the K-5 music specialist at Parkway Elementary School in Lewisville, Texas, USA. He was named Teacher of the Year in 2000. He is completing his MA in music education at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, while serving as a board member, church pianist/organist, and university course instructor. He was a guest performer at the Mendelssohn-Haus Musiksalon in Leipzig, Germany, in 1999 and 2003.

Giovanni Petracca (GSEtl98-99 Italy to USA) is president of the District 2100 Alumni Association, which is Italy's first. The charter certificate was presented to the association by Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator Franco Kettmeir last May. The association had its first meeting in November 2006 in Naples, in conjunction with the District 2100 Rotary Foundation Seminar.

Padmaraj "P.K." Kannankai (GSEtm00-01 India to France) is a lecturer in veterinary pharmacology at the College of Agriculture in Keren, Eritrea, for the Ministry of Education. Previously, he worked for six years in Kerala, India, as a veterinary surgeon for the government.

Eric Le Goff (GSEtm00-01 France to Australia) has started a LinkedIn GSE group so that former team members can keep in touch.

Eric C. Maliwat (GSEtm00-01 Philippines to Brazil) is a motivational speaker and an executive who runs national radio station 702 DZAS-Far East Broadcasting Company in the Philippines. He often uses his GSE experiences in his speeches and broadcasts.

Patcharaporn "Dr. Apple" Panyawuthikrai (GSEtm00-01 Thailand to USA) is a pharmacist and the owner of Sangthai Industry Co. Ltd., which manufactures nuts and bolts. She joined the Rotary Club of Bangrak in January, is president of the District 3350 alumni association, and plans to attend the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles in June.



Panyawuthikrai

Zeleka Paulos (AS00-01 Ethiopia to USA) is a research officer at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Addis Ababa, working on Ethiopia's rural development strategy.

Victoria Isiramen (AS01-02 Nigeria to England) is a physician and child protection specialist for UNICEF in Kaduna, Nigeria, which facilitates one of the largest HIV/AIDS education programs in the world.



Isiramen

L. Augustin Landa (AS01-02 Mexico to USA) is vice president of outreach and development at Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla and president of the scholarships committee of Fundación Río in Puebla, Mexico.



Landa

Lori Sonnier (AS01-02 USA to France) lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is working at a clinic in a five-year program toward certification in pediatrics, psychiatry, and child psychiatry. She has been able to take full advantage of her French-language skills, as the clinic handles a large West African population. Previously, she studied medicine in New Orleans.

Campbell Murray (AS01-03 New Zealand to USA) is a managing director of the Novartis BioVenture Fund in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He is a New Zealand-trained physician and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and an MPP from the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Janny Leung (AS02-03 Hong Kong to England) is assistant professor of English at the University of Hong Kong and a freelance writer/photographer. She is working with



Leung

Andy Stoll (AS06-07 USA to Hong Kong) on a documentary film about taking Tanzanian students to climb Kilimanjaro. She's received numerous awards for her photography and creative writing and has visited more than 30 countries.

Sapna Malla Piya (AS02-03 Nepal to Scotland) is CEO of the National Dental Hospital in Panipokhari, Kathmandu, Nepal, and oversees the cleft palate and oral cancer unit initiated by a Rotary Foundation Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant. She also runs her own dental practice and, with her husband, Arun Malla, is raising two daughters.

A flair for dance



Ambassadorial Scholar (Taiwan to USA) and former GSE team member Jen-Hui "Andrea" Yao (back, left) performs a Peacock Dance at the Chinese New Year celebration at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Prepared for a world of learning



Future Ambassadorial Scholars, Ambassadorial Scholar alumni, and Rotarians gather after the regional scholar orientation seminar organized by alumni members of districts 2590 and 2780 in Fujisawa, Japan.

CLASS NOTES

On top of their game



Members of District 3350's Rotary Foundation alumni association and Rotarians in Thailand sponsored a bowling tournament to raise funds in support of a Foundation Matching Grant project.

2000s

Rochelle Arms (RWPF02-04 USA to Argentina) is director of international partnerships for Global Gain in New Delhi. She is implementing Adaptive Blueprinting, a pilot project to help nongovernmental organizations in the developing world successfully replicate their programs in collaboration with like-minded organizations.

Michel Huneault (RWPF02-04 Canada to USA) began a two-year leave in January to work on conflict resolution and development issues from a documentary photography perspective. The leave followed his work in 2007 at the Afghan desk in the Kandahar Unit of the Canadian International Development Agency in Ottawa. He worked closely with the Canadian military to make the "whole of government" approach in Afghanistan more efficient, by giving input in predeployment training and briefing senior officers on development.

Akiko Tsujisawa (AS02-04 Japan to USA) works as an associate field protection officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Damak, Nepal, assisting the resettlement of 60,000 Bhutanese refugees in the United States. Previously, she did election work with the United Nations Development Programme in Sierra Leone.

Mariam Birma (GSEtm03-04 Nigeria to USA) joined the Rotary Club of Nassarawa-Kano, Nigeria, in 2004. She is president of the club and doing work with the PolioPlus program.

Jacob Landry (AS03-04 USA to France) teaches fourth-grade language arts in Oahu, Hawaii, with Teach for America and is pursuing a master's of education in teaching at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. He shares his experiences at <http://jacoblandry.blogspot.com>.

Kathryn Pearce

(GSEtm03-04 USA to Denmark) is president of the Rotary Club of Lancaster-Hempfield, Pennsylvania, USA, which she joined in 2005. She gave birth to her son, Xavier Pearce Rosado, on 8 November.



Kathryn Pearce with her son Xavier

Shakeel Ahmed (RWPF03-05 Pakistan to USA) is a teacher at the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Elsje Fourie (RWPF03-05 South Africa to England) is community engagement manager at Australian Aid International. She coordinates a training program that equips local communities vulnerable to natural disasters with basic preparedness and knowledge of earthquake-resistant construction methods.

Maribeth Gainard (RWPF03-05 USA to France) is the recipient of a 2007-08 Robert Bosch Foundation fellowship. She will work in Germany in the Foreign Office division that coordinates German policy toward United Nations organizations in the area of development aid.

Stella Margetic (RWPF03-05 Argentina to USA) works in the Unit of Implementation of the Mediators Body in the judiciary branch of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Judith Norton (RWPF03-05 USA to England) is a research assistant at the Center for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia. She is also a PhD candidate in comparative studies/international relations at the university.

Jeffrey Pool (RWPF03-05 USA to France) is the features editor for Magharebia.com, a U.S.-sponsored news Web site based in Washington, D.C., that is devoted to North Africa.

Cecille Flores (AS04-05 Honduras to USA) is studying corporate law at a graduate school in Honduras while working for a law firm. She also teaches English at her church's educational project.

Izel Marie Guatno (GSEtm04-05 Philippines to USA) is president of the Rotaract Club of Manila and was a presenter at the 2007 Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference in Malaysia. She also reports that **Oliver Alvarez** (GSEtm04-05 Philippines to Canada) is serving as her Rotaract club's professional development director.



Izel Guatno at her induction as Rotaract club president. At left is Charlemagne Chua, immediate past president and District 3810 Rotaract secretary.

Kamran Makhdoom (AS04-05 Pakistan to USA) is advocate high court at George R. Willy, PC, an immigration law firm in Karachi, Pakistan.



Makhdoom

Rhoderick Samonte

(AS04-05 Philippines to USA) is a visiting fellow at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, USA, and has formed a nonprofit organization, Bridging Youth, to help disadvantaged youth in the Philippines. He also works as a consultant for Environmental Collaborative in Geneva. He is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Southborough and a Paul Harris Fellow.



Samonte

Rotary Scholars on ice



Current and past Ambassadorial Scholars gather at a Foundation ice skating event in District 6560 in Lafayette, Indiana, USA. From left: Siham Erragh (06-07 France to USA), Knowledge Mupanda (07-08 Zimbabwe to USA), Angela Rusk (05-06 USA to Australia), and Lesley Taulman (03-04 USA to Bolivia), president of the District 6560 Alumni Association

Lora Spiller (AS04-05 USA to Portugal) is in her second year of medical school at the Saba University School of Medicine in the Netherlands Antilles.

Stacey Walker (GSEtm04-05 USA to Germany) is membership and events coordinator at the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce in North Carolina. She married Robert Miller on 21 September.

Russell Abel (AS05-06 England to Australia) is a UNICEF consultant in New York City.

Elisa Alberto (AS05-06 Italy to The Netherlands; GSEtm06-07 Italy to Argentina) worked in Copenhagen for eight months in 2007 at Aperian Global, a cross-cultural management consultancy, as country specialist coordinator for EMEA and ASIA. She moved to Vienna in March.

Mia Hsu Burton (GSEtm05-06 USA to Hong Kong/Macau) recently joined the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation in Austin, Texas, USA, as legal counsel. The foundation focuses on funding initiatives that improve health care and education for children.

Clement Maliro (AS05-06 Malawi to England) is deputy director of the Education Center for the Deaf in Malawi and an assistant audio clinician. In January, he began training student teachers at Montfort Special Needs Education College to strengthen education of the deaf in Malawi.

Prakash Tewari (RPCSP05-06 India to Thailand) is deputy general manager for Relief and Rehabilitation and Corporate Social Responsibility at Tata Power, an energy utility in India.

Cherine Badawi (RWPF05-07 USA to Japan) sailed around the world as the experiential education coordinator on the Scholar Ship. She cultivated an intercultural community and built curricula on peace and globalization issues for university and graduate students from around the globe.

Stephanie Borsboom (RWPF05-07 The Netherlands to USA) works in a short-term consultancy with the World Bank in Nepal. She helps coordinate activities with donors on community development issues and helps plan and prepare regional retreats.

Cathy Brown (RWPF05-07 USA to Japan) received an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship in the Sustainable Forestry and Nature Management program in Copenhagen. The program involves a year of study in Denmark and a year in Bangor, Wales. She will graduate with a master's degree in forestry and another master's in land and conservation management.

Hélène Carvallo (RWPF05-07 France to USA) is working for a women's rights nongovernmental organization in the Palestinian Territories.

Gabriel Dvoskin (RWPF05-07 Argentina to USA) is project director for Sayara Media and Communication, Afghanistan's leading communications agency dedicated to social marketing and public information.

Martín Kunik (RWPF05-07 Argentina to USA) works for the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C.

Cory McCrudden (RWPF05-07 USA to England) is pursuing a PhD in political science at Yale University. She is studying the root causes of conflict, especially in developing countries; globalization; socioeconomics and political justice; and political participation among poor and marginalized groups.

Sara Petersson (RWPF05-07 Sweden to USA) is working for a nongovernmental organization in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Jennifer Steel (RWPF05-07 England to France) works in London for BBC Afrique, the broadcaster's World Service radio for Francophone Africa.

Juan Esteban Ugarriza (RWPF05-07 Colombia to USA) works as a researcher with the Externado University in Bogotá as part of Prof. Jürg Steiner's project working with demobilized ex-combatants in Colombia.

Nai-Hua Wu (RWPF05-07 USA to Japan) is assistant manager in the Human Resources Department of the Standard Chartered Bank of Taiwan.

Federico del Vecchio

(AS06-07 Italy to USA) is a sculptor from Naples, Italy, and plans to pursue his master's in fine art at the San Francisco Art Institute.



Del Vecchio

Mark Duey (AS06-07 USA to Spain) is an international development fellow with Catholic Relief Services in Nicaragua. He completed his studies at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain.

Marco Faggella (AS06-07 Italy to USA) is a PhD candidate in earthquake engineering and will study as a 2008-10 Rotary World Peace Fellow at International Christian University in Tokyo.

Andy Stoll (AS06-07 USA to Hong Kong) is on a two-year trip around the world. In 2007, he organized an educational project with the nonprofit My World and 18 Rotary clubs to take Tanzanian students to the top of Kilimanjaro. He and **Janny Leung** (AS02-03 Hong Kong to England) are making a documentary film about the students' life-changing experiences.



Stoll



FEATURED STORY



Emine Yüzay: Rotarians change her life story

It's hard to believe that more than a year has passed since *Interactive* launched. We dedicate this issue to looking back at the progress made by the Rotarians and others we covered in some of our early issues. Our feature piece focuses on Emine Yüzay, a young woman whose tenacity to learn to read inspired Rotarians around the globe to help her overcome her disability. [See how her story continued.](#)



Fast facts about *Interactive* stories

- Since the New Year, New Beginnings issue, featuring **"Firsthand Accounts of the Fight against Polio"**, Molly Williams' mother traveled back to Ethiopia on another immunization campaign.
- Since we featured **"Rotarians Rebuild Hope in New Orleans"**, the Warren Easton school reopened. At the start of the fall 2007 term, the school had about 800 students, as well as additional faculty, all looking forward to another school year.

FEATURED STORY



Emine Yüzay: Rotarians change one girl's life story

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It's your turn to talk to Wilf Wilkinson

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®

2007-08 Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinators

Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators work to build stronger ties between all Foundation alumni and Rotary clubs and districts around the world. They are your main Rotary resource! Contact your local coordinator to help you get involved in Rotary projects and events, create an alumni association, or simply reconnect with Rotary.

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