



## Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator (RFAC) Monthly Bulletin March 2008

### **Comments from General Coordinator Rodney Mazinter**

"Our young people love luxury. They have bad manners, disregard authority and have no respect whatever for age. Today's youth behave like tyrants. They refuse to get up when an elderly person enters the room. They talk back to their parents. Their behavior is simply intolerable." This was the quote I launched on an audience who largely agreed vehemently with the sentiment. I was at a seminar promoting Rotarians' embrace of alumni. The general consensus was we waste our time on young people who don't appreciate our efforts and that it was not like that when we were young. I then gave them the author of the quote: Greek philosopher Socrates who died in 399 BC. News headlines, now as then, are more likely to trumpet youth's notoriety rather than its many accomplishments. Our job as Rotarians is to swell our ranks with the unsung heroes of humanity who are our Foundation alumni. This becomes all the more important when we realize that these young men and women are our most important resource. Who but the new generation will manage all the natural resources in tomorrow's world? Who will pursue our desire for peace among peoples? Who but alumni will run our Rotary clubs? Consider it your Rotary duty to pick up that phone and call one of our many alumni in your area. Invite them to a meeting. Invite them to the reunion in LA. Why are you hesitating? They are waiting for your call.

### **Comments from Assistant General Coordinator Jeffry Cadorette**

Spring is threatening to emerge here in the US and that is a busy time in the Rotary world. Current club and district leaders are trying to finish out their year in a strong fashion and incoming club and district leaders are busy being trained and making plans for July 1. We know that it is a busy time for you also...but we're asking for you to finish the year strong too.

Throughout the Rotary world the Foundation alumni initiative which is being lead by each of you is making a difference. More alumni receptions are being held. New alumni associations are being formed. Wherever I go, the mention of Rotary Foundation alumni is now met with knowledgeable conversation and not blank stares. There is an understanding now more than ever of what an asset this group of people is to our organization and there is an appreciation among them of being connected and reconnected to Rotary International. As we finish out this Rotary year as RFACs, one of the biggest contributions we can make is to boost the attendance at the inaugural Rotary Alumni Celebration at the LA Convention in June. We hope to see you there as well! Any information that you may need about the convention and the Rotary Alumni Celebration can be found in the update/attachments included in this bulletin or by contacting alumni relations staff. **Help us to get alumni from your districts and zones registered for the LA event.** Your assistance in this effort is very much appreciated. Thanks for all that you do. See you in LA!!!!

### **Update on The Rotary Alumni Celebration**

Please continue to promote the Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles! Currently, there are only 280 participants registered and many more are needed to make this a successful event. Please remember to distribute the attached FAQ and flier at all Rotary events that you attend. Both Rotarians and alumni are invited. The next deadline for registration is **31 March** and the registration prices will rise again after that date. Non-Rotarian alumni must register using paper forms (online registration is not possible for them). As of 1 April, RI will no longer accept paper registration forms until on-site registration begins 12 June at the convention in Los Angeles. **In other words, if alumni miss the 31 March deadline, they must wait until they are on-site to register.** Please refer to the attached document containing planned highlights for the Rotary Alumni Celebration.



Rotary Alumni  
Celebration Flier



Rotary Alumni  
Celebration FAQ



Rotary Alumni  
Celebration-Highlights

### **Quarterly Activity Reports**

Please remember that the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter activity report is due **31 March**. These reports are **important measures** used by The Rotary Foundation Trustees for evaluating the effectiveness of the alumni relations efforts and the value of RFACs. Contact your alumni relations coordinator with questions or problems with your report.

### **Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge**

As many of you know, The Rotary Foundation has received a US\$100 million grant for polio eradication from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that must be matched within three years. The Foundation is reaching out to Rotarians and non-Rotarians alike in an effort to reach this important fundraising goal. All alumni and alumni associations will be sent information about the challenge and ways they can contribute. Attached is the correspondence they will receive. Please note that the link for on-line giving will not begin working until 1 April.



Rotary's \$100 million challenge alumni asso



Rotary's \$100 million challenge alumni Lett

### **March is Literacy Month**

Encourage alumni in your area to participate in literacy initiatives and projects. Surely many alumni are teachers and can share their stories about how they taught children or adults to read. Visit the following link for more ideas on how clubs and districts can celebrate Rotary Literacy Month:

[http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/rq07\\_literacy\\_celebrate\\_month.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rq07_literacy_celebrate_month.pdf).

### **Regional Scholar Orientation Seminars**

Regional scholar orientation seminars are occasions to prepare outgoing Foundation program participants for their experiences abroad and an excellent opportunity to involve local alumni using their expertise. Some alumni associations actually organize the orientation seminar in their area. For a list of seminars taking place worldwide, visit [http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/amb\\_scholar\\_seminars.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/amb_scholar_seminars.pdf).



(Outbound

scholar orientation in Fujisawa, Japan, 9-10 Feb 2008.)

### **Alumni in the March issue of The Rotarian**

- o An article on 2005-06 Ambassadorial scholar Alissa Creamer from District 5100 (Oregon, USA) to District 2210 (Spain) talks about her work on a documentary film on two Angolan children. (p.27)
- o Terry Youlton, 1979-80 GSE team leader from District 6380 (Canada) to District 3270 (Pakistan) talks about his experience working with polio victims in "Polio Voices". (p.51)

To view the full articles please see the attached pdf.



TRF Alumni in March  
08 Rotarian.pdf

### **New RFAC website and training toolkit**

Next month, you will receive an announcement about a new Website which will be a valuable resource to your role as RFACs. You will be receiving detailed instructions on how to log-on to this site and how it can be used. The website will include RFAC Bulletins, an events calendar, a photo gallery, news, a discussion area, and training materials.