

# reconnections

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



## RI and Gates Foundation boost end-polio commitment to US\$555 million

Rotary International announced that its partnership for polio eradication with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has increased its contribution to US\$555 million. The announcement was made at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, on 21 January.

The Rotary Foundation received a \$255 million Gates Foundation grant in January, for which Rotary will raise \$100 million in matching funds. In November 2007, RI received a \$100 million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary committed to match by raising \$100 million.

The two challenge grants now total \$355 million. Rotary has committed to raising a combined total of \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012. This matching effort is called Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Rotary will spend the \$255 million grant in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is spearheaded by RI and its partners, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.

"Rotarians, government leaders, and health professionals have made a phenomenal commitment to get us to a point at which polio afflicts only a small number of the world's children," said Bill Gates, cochair of the Gates Foundation.

“This partnership of Rotary and the Gates Foundation offers a historic opportunity to rid the world of a disease that robs children of their futures.”

Dong Kurn Lee

"However, complete elimination of the poliovirus is difficult and will continue to be difficult for a number of years. Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication."

"With the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we are on the brink of eradicating one of the most feared crippling, sometimes fatal, diseases in the world," said Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe. "This shared commitment of Rotary and the Gates Foundation should encourage governments and nongovernmental organizations to ensure that resources are available to end polio once and for all."

Rotary club and Rotarian participation in Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge is



Bill Gates speaks at Rotary's 2009 International Assembly.

crucial to its success. Rotary raised \$61 million in contributions and \$11 million in commitments toward this amount in 2008. Each club is being challenged to organize a public fundraiser annually for the next three years. Beginning 1 July, special Paul Harris Fellow Recognition, featuring a certificate with the End Polio Now logo, will be available.

Rotary Foundation alumni, too, are invited to help support the final push to eradicate polio by participating in Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge through their Foundation alumni associations or by contributing online at [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio). Alumni associations are also encouraged to take part through their sponsor Rotary clubs' or districts'

fundraising activities.

Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985. Rotary will have contributed more than \$1.2 billion to the effort by the end of Rotary's challenge in 2012. Although the Global Polio Eradication Initiative has slashed the number of polio cases by 99 percent, the wild poliovirus still persists in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"This partnership of Rotary and the Gates Foundation offers a historic opportunity to rid the world of a disease that robs children of their futures," said RI President Dong Kurn Lee. "It is a significant boost toward making real our dream of a polio-free world."

Read more at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).



## Rotary Alumni Celebration 20 June 2009



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18-19 June 2009

### Challenges to peace-building

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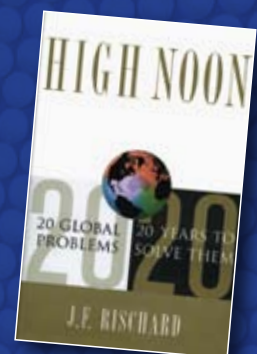
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"A handy introduction that highlights some of the key global issues of our time."  
— Joseph Stiglitz,  
Nobel Laureate in Economics

Foundation alumni from 2001 through 2009 are eligible to attend the convention at a reduced fee.

To learn more or register, go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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# Foundation alumnus to serve as RI president

When Ray Klinginsmith takes office in 2010, he will become the first RI president who is an alumnus of the Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarships program.

"When you travel as a student, you see the internationality of Rotary, and it's very impressive. It's what encouraged me to join Rotary immediately and to work in Rotary all these years," says Klinginsmith, whose scholarship took him to South Africa in 1961, during apartheid.

A native of Unionville, Missouri, USA, a town of just 2,000 people, Klinginsmith is the son of a Rotarian and "grew up going to Rotary picnics." When he applied for the Ambassadorial Scholarship (in the early 1960s, the children of Rotarians were eligible to apply), the whole club took an interest. "After I was selected, they invited me to attend all the Rotary meetings free of charge until I left," he recalls, adding that he has attended Rotary meetings for 49 years.

Klinginsmith studied at the University of Cape Town, an institution that at that time resisted government regulations by allowing both blacks and people of mixed racial descent to enroll as students. There, Klinginsmith studied under social anthropologist Monica Hunter Wilson, known for her fieldwork in native African communities and for her opposition to apartheid.

"She was a fascinating lecturer," Klinginsmith says. One thing he learned from Wilson, he says, is that "every culture has wisdom that we often overlook. It's only when you live there and get to know it that you begin to understand."

During his scholarship year, Klinginsmith traveled

16,000 miles to speak to 35 Rotary clubs across Southern Africa, including present-day Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In divisive South Africa, he recalls, Rotary clubs were one of the few places where English- and Afrikaans-speaking white people mixed. "Many clubs conducted meetings in both languages — in Afrikaans one week and in English the next," he says.

After returning to the United States, Klinginsmith completed a law degree at the University of Missouri. He served as general counsel, dean of administration, and a part-time business professor at Northeast Missouri State University in Kirksville (now Truman State University) for more than 20 years. He also remained active in Rotary, serving as district governor and as chair of the 1998 Council on Legislation in New Delhi and the 2008 Los Angeles Convention Committee.

Klinginsmith also served on the RI Board of Directors for 1985-87 and chaired its executive committee in 1986-87. He joined The Rotary Foundation Trustees in 2002, serving as vice chair in 2005-06, and was chair of The Rotary Foundation Alumni Advisory Committee in 2007-08 and 2008-09. A Major Donor, he is a recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

His long experience with Rotary, Klinginsmith says, helps him understand what people want and need from Rotary. Foundation alumni, for example, are often interested in participating in Rotary projects, even if they do not wish to become Rotarians.

"You don't have to be a Rotarian to work on a service



RI President-nominee and former Ambassadorial Scholar Ray Klinginsmith spoke at the 2008 RI Convention in Los Angeles.

project. You don't have to be a Rotarian to make a contribution to the Foundation," Klinginsmith says. "We need to keep our alumni involved."



Hanny Wan immunizes a child in India against polio.

## Giving back to help end polio

Sixteen-year-old Anthima struggles to lift herself up from a hospital bed and drags her surgically straightened knees until her feet touch the floor.

"Our goal is to give back children the dignity they deserve. Nobody wants them, [so] we take care of them," said Dr. Mathew Varghese, who performed the operation and has been treating polio patients for two decades at St. Stephen's Hospital in the Indian capital of New Delhi. He was speaking to a six-member team of Rotarians from Hong Kong and the United States who had volunteered to participate in the country's Subnational Immunization Days in June. I accompanied the team as a former Rotary Scholar to experience and write about the immunization campaign.

**"I'm more convinced than ever that we have to step up our efforts to help these people. We can eradicate polio."**

Kenneth Chow

Anthima's fists grasp the crutches so hard that her arms tremble under her pink-colored sari. As she walks the first step, she looks up and smiles.

"It pains me to see her smile, knowing the agony she's going through," said Ada Cheng, then governor-nominee of District 3450 (Hong Kong; Macau; Mongolia), tears rolling down her face. "She isn't whining. She isn't crying. You'd think a person ought to be complaining when going through such pain, but she isn't."

Our team then traveled to immunize children in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. My hands were shaking when I squeezed the first drop out of a vaccine bottle, partly because the baby, held in a local health worker's arms, wouldn't stop crying, screaming, and kicking. I was amazed by the thought that two drops is all it takes to help prevent these kids from contracting the crippling, sometimes deadly, disease. Then we marked the child's left little finger using an indelible ink pen to distinguish the child from others who hadn't yet received the vaccine.

By creating a festive atmosphere, we tried to attract more children to the immunization booth. Each child received a souvenir before leaving the booth: a cap made of a rubber band attaching two ends of moon-

shaped cardboard, with the Rotary logo printed on one side.

It didn't take long before these caps started coming back to us. The kids had invented a different toy out of them. They flipped over the cardboard and came with a pen. "Ma'am, autograph please?" they asked.

During the first hour, our team immunized almost 130 children. Afterward, we made our way through the slums in the heat of the midmorning sun. It was quite an adventure to pass through filthy alleys and climb narrow, steep stairs, knocking on each door in search for kids who had missed immunization at the booths, intentionally or unintentionally.

A Muslim grandmother had prohibited her daughter-in-law from bringing her two-year-old baby to get vaccinated. Together with team member Chelsia To, Ting Lau, a polio survivor and cardiologist in Hong Kong, persuaded the grandma by using body language and herself as an example, eventually helping one more child to be immunized.

Later, as our team was about to make its way out of Jagapur village, our car was stopped by a skinny old man, one hand pounding the front window, the other holding a wooden stick as he walked. I hopped out of the car and saw a woman holding her 18-month-old baby in her hands. She begged us to help her son get surgery, saying he had polio symptoms.

Ann Lee Hussey, chair of the Rotarian Action Group for Polio Survivors and Associates, lifted the boy's left arm, then let go. The boy's arm dropped. She lifted his left leg. It fell. The boy looked like he had lost control of half of his muscles, possibly an early symptom of polio.

"After this trip, I'm more convinced than ever that we have to step up our efforts to help these people. We can eradicate polio," said Kenneth Chow, a member of the Rotary Club of Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong.

"The very presence of Rotarians here contributes in terms of giving faith to local health workers because at times they could feel fatigue," said a World Health Organization official in India. "It shows them that there are people standing by them, giving them comfort and motivation."

— Former Rotary Foundation Scholar Hanny Wan (2002-03, Hong Kong to USA), Hong Kong-based financial stocks reporter covering Asian markets for Bloomberg News

## Text to end polio!



Readers in the United States can help support Rotary's fight against polio by texting **POLIO** to **90999** for a one-time \$5 donation.

Available on most U.S. carriers. Proceeds benefit The Rotary Foundation. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider.



Ryan Gawn visits a girls' school in Balkh Province, Afghanistan.

## Front-line advocate for peace

At a time when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan make frequent news headlines, young men like Ryan Gawn, 29, head for such countries to teach effective lobbying, strengthen civil society, and help create a peaceful and stable social order.

Gawn, a former Rotary World Peace Fellow, is international external relations coordinator for Save the Children UK, a branch of the global nongovernmental organization. In April 2008, he traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan, to provide advocacy and media training to senior national staff and visit the organization's schools, clinics, and hospitals.

Independently, Gawn was also head of liaison for track 2 peace negotiations, known as the Iraq Project, supported by the University of Massachusetts, during which several Iraqi parliamentarians negotiated in Helsinki, Finland, which led to the Helsinki Agreement in 2008.

Gawn's path toward his current position with Save the Children UK, where he supports the director of international operations in his external relations and lobbying, is marked by a long résumé of political and media-oriented activities.

Born outside of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Gawn studied politics at the University of Stirling in Scotland. His first internship with Northern Ireland's first government relations consultancy, working under Quintin Oliver, organizer of the successful "YES" referendum campaign that endorsed the country's Good Friday Peace Agreement.

Gawn won the Arthur D. Tripp Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, which



Gawn at the Save the Children UK compound in Mazr-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

sent him to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, to study at the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy. After learning Spanish, French, and German in school, he edited the *Santiago News Review* in Santiago, Chile. He went on to study as a 2003-05 Rotary World Peace Fellow at the Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he earned a master's degree in international relations.

“I now have friends and colleagues all over the world that I can draw upon.”

Ryan Gawn

“The experience gave me better understanding of international development as well as cultural understanding. I now have friends and colleagues all over the world that I can draw upon,” said Gawn. The highlight of his fellowship, he added, was assisting in policy development, research, and intergovernmental negotiations at the United Nations and working on Kofi Annan's 2005 reform proposal, “In Larger Freedom.”

Since his peace fellowship, Gawn has continued working in similar political public-affairs roles and still considers Oliver a personal mentor. He is heavily involved in the international affairs arena in London, having been recently elected council member of Chatham House and treasurer of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom's Westminster Branch. Gawn has also introduced Rotary to Save the Children UK for potential partnership. In addition, he has taken part in Rotary conferences in the United Kingdom, Tokyo, and Utah, USA, and he will be a panelist at the Rotary World Peace Symposium in Birmingham, England, on 18-19 June.

As for the Helsinki Agreement and future peace prospects in Iraq, Gawn is hopeful. “We recently gave evidence to a U.S. congressional hearing and hope that the new administration will use this example of success to inform their thinking on potential new approaches to the situation.”

## Social entrepreneur benefits the world's children

“It all starts with a spark,” reads the cover of the Global Fund for Children's annual report. The Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit has given away more than US\$11 million to community organizations around the globe.

But what ignites the spark?

For Maya Ajmera, Global Fund for Children's founder and president, it was her 1989-90 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship that financed a year of study in India. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of China Lake, California, USA, Ajmera studied at St. Xavier's College in Mumbai. She visited Rotary clubs as she traveled around the country “in every possible way: rickshaw, yaks, the back of a truck.”

In Bhubaneswar in the state of Orissa, she got off at a bustling train station.

“I saw 40 kids sitting in a circle, learning to read and write,” Ajmera recalls. She learned that the children at the “train-platform school” lived in the station, eating, sleeping, and begging but not going to school.

Ajmera spoke to the woman in charge, who told her, “I bring the school to the children,” explaining that it costs \$400 a year for two teachers.

“It was there that I had what I call my moment of obligation,” Ajmera says. “I thought, how do you bring small amounts of capital to the most worthy grassroots organizations?”

After attending the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, USA, she created the Global Fund for Children in 1994.

“We have made 1,933 grants assisting 323 community-based organizations in 66 countries,” including the train-platform school in Orissa, Ajmera says. “And more than a million children have benefited from our work.”

The organization's success is based on investing in local leaders, she says. “If you have homegrown people, people who live

“More than a million children have benefited from our work.”

Maya Ajmera

there and continue this work, rather than outsiders coming in, it's going to stick.”

In October 2007, Ajmera was profiled in a segment of CNN's *Heroes*. Cheryl Dorsey, president of Echoing Green, a New York City-based group that provides fellowships for “emerging social entrepreneurs,” calls Ajmera — a 1993 Echoing Green fellow who now sits on the board — one of her most trusted advisers.

“She's an incredible talent who is a visionary and an amazing social change agent,” Dorsey says, citing Ajmera's ability to work across sectors and across boundaries to bring diverse stakeholders together.

Global Fund for Children has released 25 children's books with Charlesbridge Publishing; more than 500,000 are in circulation, providing an income stream for projects, including movies aimed at celebrating the joys of childhood and diverse cultures.

“I want to show the beautiful side,” Ajmera says, disdaining the prevailing images of poor children. “There's more to children than just their suffering,” she says, noting that “we all play a part in reaching those children.”

Ajmera appreciates her earliest benefactors. “If I didn't have this scholarship, there wouldn't be a Global Fund for Children,” she says. “It was the Rotary scholarship, it was being at that train station and seeing that school [that made it happen]. Rotary gave me that opportunity.”

To learn more, go to [www.globalfundforchildren.org](http://www.globalfundforchildren.org).



Maya Ajmera, founder of the Global Fund for Children, visits a girls' shelter in Chennai during a return trip to India, where she studied as a Rotary Scholar.



### 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](http://www.rotary.org). Click on About Us at the top, then click on Membership inquiry 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.

# Canadian Rotary Volunteer brings microcredit loans to displaced Colombians

Rotary Volunteer Berta Lopera doesn't ordinarily keep millions of pesos inside her rubber rain boots. But that's what she did to safeguard money she carried to Cazuca, a shantytown two hours south of Bogotá, Colombia. The funds were for a project that provided 70 microcredit business loans to indigent people displaced by violence.

Lopera, of the Rotary Club of Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, used a US\$3,000 Volunteer Service Grant to offset travel and other expenses in December 2007 and January 2008 for the \$12,600 loan project. The Vernon club, along with the Rotary clubs of Kalamalka (Vernon) and Tri-Lakes Vernon, funded the individual loans ranging from \$150 to \$400. Lopera and members of the Rotary Club of Bogotá Centenario organized informational meetings and worked directly with existing and potential small business owners from Cazuca, Belen, and Florida.

The Vernon club and the Catholic Church are administering loans in Cazuca and Belen, while the Bogotá Centenario club is managing loans in Florida. Because recipients did not directly receive loan money through the project, Lopera and Bogotá Centenario Rotarians, along with church staff, accompanied them on trips to purchase materials. Following Lopera's visit, the Bogotá Centenario club and the church have maintained weekly contact with business owners to offer them support.

A native of Colombia, Lopera knew

“These people are trying to rebuild their lives away from home.”

Berta Lopera

there was a need for the loans among displaced Colombians, who made up 60 percent of the project's recipients. According to the United Nations, internally displaced people (IDPs) in Colombia number approximately three million.

“Many families had been collecting waste foods at the market to survive and struggling with their small businesses, living on charity,” says Lopera about the recipients before they received the loans. “I saw that some people were starving.”

According to Bogotá Centenario Rotarian Maria Cristina Henao, the microcredit project has provided a leg-up to capable Colombians.

“These loans have enabled the beneficiaries to achieve a measure of security by expanding and developing their businesses,” says Henao. “Previously, they were charged outlandishly exorbitant rates of interest.”

The beneficiaries have used the loans to form or improve a variety of small enterprises. Graciela Sanchez received a sewing machine and started a sewing business. Three of Sanchez's five children were killed during local violence, and she



Rotary Volunteer Berta Lopera (right) with microcredit recipient Graciela Sanchez in Cazuca, Colombia

is using the proceeds from her business to support her grandchildren.

Luzmila Trujillo, a single mother of five, including one child with special needs, has used her loan to improve her tamale business. Gerardo Jaramillo, a leather craftsman, creates backpacks, lunchboxes, and other items for children. Esperanza Ruiz and her husband, Fabian Gonzalez, have used their \$400 loan for carpentry tools and materials to produce tables.

Repayment of the loans has varied among the three communities, with the Florida and Belen recipients repaying a greater percentage.

“The risk factor is bigger in the Ca-

zuca unit because there were many loans granted to IDPs and it is a very challenging place,” says Lopera. “These people are trying to rebuild their lives away from home and are kind of a floating population. We were aware of the risk factor, and we considered it was worth it.”

Lopera's background as a business lawyer helped her structure the program, create applications and documents, and expedite money transfers. She now works as a lawyer in northern Colombia to aid four nonprofit sustainable development organizations and is forming a similar microcredit program with the Rotary Club of El Cerrejon.



## 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](http://www.rotary.org).

## A resounding 'YES' for youth in the Philippines

When Rhoderick Samonte of the Philippines was accepted into a master's degree program at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, USA, he was “at a crossroads in between hope and despair.”

He didn't have the money to attend.

“I was about to give up,” Samonte says.

Then he learned of The Rotary Foundation's Scholarships Fund Pool for Low-Income Countries — two days before the application deadline. He applied and was named an Ambassadorial Scholar for 2004-06.

“My belief in service has been reinforced by my involvement with Rotary,” Samonte says. “Education is not just a privilege. It is a call to serve.”

In 2006, Samonte found himself at a crossroads again. He was tempted to stay in the United States after he finished his degree, but knew it was his responsibility to return home and help people there.

Back in the Philippines, Samonte came up with the idea for the Youth Entrepreneurship Service (YES) program. He presented the idea to his former host club,



Rotary Images/Monika Luzinska-Lee

Rhoderick Samonte

the Rotary Club of Wellesley, Massachusetts, and through a partnership with the Rotary Club of Bacolod South, Negros Occidental, Philippines, YES became a reality. The program provides micro-lending assistance to 100 youths from Bacolod City.

YES equips young adults with basic entrepreneurial skills such as dressmaking, cooking, and electronics repair. Once trained, they receive seed capital and start businesses. Their goal is to form cooperatives and help one another earn and save money for their educations. In May, YES received a US\$20,000 Matching Grant from The Rotary Foundation.

“I am truly grateful to Rotary for believing in this project,” Samonte says. “The youth are the future of any community. What kind of community will there be if we do not give them the gift of education?”

## Pumping water for life in Zimbabwe

Amid famine, water scarcity, disease outbreaks, and rampant inflation in Zimbabwe, six Rotary clubs in as many countries are bringing hope to people there. The project is establishing water wells and vegetable and tree gardens at seven schools in the country. A US\$6,650 Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, combined with sponsor contributions, has provided a total of \$16,950 in funding for the effort.

The project began in 2007, sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Grenaa and Grenaa-Djurs, Denmark; Türi, Estonia; Grossefehn/Wiesmoor, Germany; Drøbak, Norway; and Hunyani, Zimbabwe. Recent support has also come from the Rotary Club of Åmål, Sweden. Pump Aid, a nongovernmental organization, is managing installation and maintenance of the wells. Environment Africa, another NGO, oversees creation of the gardens, designed to help feed area residents and provide some with a livelihood. The organization is headed by Charlene Hewat, of the Hunyani club.

“The technology is simple and efficient and requires no special technical skills,” says Stein Nørve, a member of the Drøbak club. “The pumps may be operated manually by anyone.”

In 2008, Cecilia Nedziwe assessed the project's progress as manager of operations for the Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa. At the Mupamombe school, she found the water pump functioning efficiently and workers planting seeds in the garden.

“The project is making a difference and saving many lives.”

Cecilia Nedziwe

“There was life and happiness around, and I was delighted to see everyone smiling and extending their gratefulness to Rotary for supporting the well project,” said Nedziwe, who is based in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, and is a former Rotary World Peace Fellow (Zimbabwe to Australia, 2006-08).

She found the situation similar at three of the other four schools. Only at the school in Kwayedza was the well for the pump yet to be completed. Two wells are also scheduled for installation at other schools.

Nedziwe said that the project is vital, “given the level of humanitarian crisis in the country. The project is making a difference and saving many lives.”



Cecilia Nedziwe visits the Rotary water project's pump well at Mupamombe school in Zimbabwe.



Prerna Mona Khanna offloads a patient from a helicopter during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005.

## Award-winning GSE alum combines careers for success

From journalism graduate to triple-board-certified medical doctor, former Group Study Exchange (GSE) team member Prerna Mona Khanna has combined her two passions to shape a career rich in personal success and humanitarian achievement.

Unable to choose between two very different career paths, Khanna simply decided to do both. After graduating from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism, she entered medical school at the University of Illinois, USA.

"I made a commitment to service," says Khanna, a former medical reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. "I've put myself in a position where I can help people in need through volunteerism and media communication."

As a physician and medical journalist, Khanna has received almost 50 awards in the past six years, including a 2004 Emmy for her feature *The Health Benefits of Chocolate* and the 2008 Alumni Humanitarian Award from the University of Illinois.

She hosted and produced the 30-minute CBS Special Reports *Diagnosis: Cancer* and *Cheap Medicine: Mexico's Medications*. The features earned her a 2006 National Headliner Award and nominations for the 2006 International Health and Medical Media, Davey, and Telly awards.

A former contributing editor at Dallas's CBS affiliate KTVT, Khanna has been a guest on *Good Morning America*, *The Early Show*, and CNN. Her investigative reports on new developments in health and medical research appear on television, in print, on the radio, and on the Web.

"I've taken care of people all over the world, and I've come to believe the most important part of any visit to the doctor is health education," she says. "People need to know how important medical literacy is."

Khanna says she is able to give even more useful, insightful advice to readers in her current capacity as a medical editor for [www.icyou.com](http://www.icyou.com).

"Most people aren't medically literate," she says. "I

want to reach out to people who need basic medical information the most. By informing viewers, I'm empowering them to make important decisions in the future."

Khanna's experience as an emergency medical volunteer has put her on the front lines of some of the world's worst disasters. Her deployments have included Sri Lanka and Indonesia in early 2005 after the tsunami, Ground Zero in New York after the 11 September attacks, and the crash site of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 and Kosovo refugee headquarters in 2000.

In 2005, as a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Khanna was one of four triage doctors at the New Orleans International Airport after Hurricane Katrina and reported daily for Dallas's CBS News.

"I saw suffering that I thought I would never see in a major city in the USA. It was surreal," she says.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Bernardino, California, USA, Khanna studied Switzerland's health-care system as a 1999-2000 GSE team member. The experience kick-started her diverse international experiences, which have included studying health care in China, Israel, Japan, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

"I was so fortunate to be involved with GSE," says Khanna. "I don't know if I would have volunteered in places around the world if it weren't for the opportunity Rotary gave me. International travel and learning new cultures is now a large part of my life."



Khanna holds up her 2004 Emmy award.

## A catalyst for compassion in Congo

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, more than 250,000 people were displaced in a matter of months when violence flared between rebel fighters and the Congolese army in August.

In the border community of Goma, former Ambassadorial Scholar Rinko Kinoshita is putting to use the public-health degree she earned with Rotary's help to aid people affected by this humanitarian crisis. "They are having so many people displaced," she says on a November night, after a long day working with refugees through her job with UNICEF. "We are very busy responding."

Kinoshita got her start in the health field as a midwife in her native Japan. She was drawn to Rotary's work in public health and, having a sister who was also an Ambassadorial Scholar, decided to apply. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA.

Without Rotary, Kinoshita says she would not be where she is today. She first went to Africa through a school internship, working with Save the Children in Malawi on a project to reduce neonatal mortality.

“There’s a huge need in this country.”

Rinko Kinoshita

"I fell in love with the culture," she says. When she graduated with her master's degree in public health in 2003, she knew she wanted to go back.

Working for the University of North Carolina, Kinoshita lived in Kinshasa, Congo, managing a research program focused on pregnant women. Her job was to look at how interventions in such areas as AIDS and malaria were working and could be improved. Much of her work was in the field, such as studying risk behaviors for contraction of HIV. She traveled to maternity hospitals to interview women and supervise counselors who were providing education on HIV testing.

In Congo, 60 percent of births occur without trained birth attendants, and so in another project Kinoshita studied how training attendants affected neonatal mortality. Later, she worked for UNICEF in Kinshasa and took the position in Goma in August.

In Goma, her work with UNICEF helps those fleeing the conflict through programs in maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and child protection. She works mostly with women and children, including orphans and child soldiers. Her job is to help UNICEF field staff improve their work.

"I think what has motivated me to stay in this country is that I want to see even a very small visible change," Kinoshita says. "I want to feel that my work is contributing somehow to make changes to development or people's health or their lives. That has been very difficult for me, because of the degree of problems. There's huge need in this country."

Her work in Congo has brought her into contact with Rotarians organizing an immunization campaign. She says she'd like to get involved in Rotary in the future. "I feel like Rotary International really unifies. No matter where they are, no matter who they are, they are working toward one single vision."



Rinko Kinoshita (second from right) talks to primary school students about hygiene and sanitation at a water project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



### 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.

# Big plans for Kosovo's health

Gani Abazi's journey from a poor village in Kosovo to one of the most prestigious centers of medicine and learning in the United States might seem unlikely. But nothing he achieves surprises those who know him well.

"Gani has more persistence than most people," says Frank Rowbotham, a member of the Rotary Club of Wellesley, Massachusetts, and Abazi's Rotarian host counselor for the past two years. "He knows what he wants."

Abazi, a physician, is the first Ambassadorial Scholar from Kosovo, which declared its independence from Serbia in 2008. While earning his master's degree at the Harvard School of Public Health in 2006-07, he received a rare second Ambassadorial Scholarship, which is helping to fund a two-year research fellowship in neurosurgery at Children's Hospital in Boston. His aim is to return to Kosovo and modernize its outdated health-care system, which lacks both the doctors and the equipment to handle specialized care.

Kosovo's citizens — the majority of whom are ethnic Albanians — are the poorest in Europe. Abazi grew up on a small farm with six brothers and a sister. "We didn't have a social welfare service," he says. "We had to take care of ourselves."

Tensions between Serbs and Albanians erupted into war in March 1999, during Abazi's first year at university. After his village was bombed, Abazi, working as a paramedic, helped carry the wounded as the ethnic Albanian population fled through the mountains of Montenegro and into northern Albania. "We carried stretchers by hand," he recalls. "Six people per stretcher, 100 kilometers (62 miles) through the mountains, in the snow."

The war, he believes, made him stronger. "I saw many people dying," he says. "I feel it made me much more persistent in what I want to achieve but also more compassionate. And I feel it has made me a better doctor."

As a medical student in Pristina, Abazi directly observed the problems of Kosovo's poor health-care infrastructure. "The most heartbreaking thing was when patients had cancer or needed surgery that couldn't be done in Kosovo," he recalls. "All of these patients, they either have to go abroad or they die."

Abazi is critical of international experts who say Kosovo should concentrate on basic medical care and leave specialization to more developed countries.

"Once you invest some money in train-

ing experts as well as in improving the infrastructure of the hospital, you are able to save the lives of thousands a year and provide sustainability of service for many generations to come," he says.

Abazi envisions a core of specialists who will train more doctors in the region, until patients no longer need to leave home for treatment.

"It's much cheaper than sending patients abroad," he says. "And then you're

also postponing developing a system of care at home. Kosovo one day will need its own specialized services — the sooner the better."

Abazi understands that as an Ambassadorial Scholar much is expected of him in return. "I have a responsibility to contribute something that will make a difference in people's lives," he says. "Rotary has really helped me a lot. I don't know how to thank Rotary enough."



At Children's Hospital in Boston, Abazi (right) tests a new technique for treating patients with hydrocephalus, a dangerous buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain.

## Putting peace in motion in the Philippines

The North Luzon Peace and Human Rights Caravan took an unexpected turn during its journey to four cities in the Philippines that began on 26 July. On the first day, it left from Manila and stopped in San Jose, Tarlac, the site of frequent fighting between government forces and the New People's Army until it was declared a peace zone in 2006. The caravan's team provided peace and human rights training in San Jose to representatives of various student and church organizations.

"A few minutes after we started the training, we were surprised to see uniformed personnel from the Philippine army approach our venue, some of them even carrying arms," said Ellis Luciano, then program director for the Institute of Reconciliation in Santiago City and a former Rotary World Peace Fellow (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand). "They said they wanted to observe and be part of our activity; they even took pictures of us while facilitating the workshop."

The caravan was organized by the Generation Peace Youth Network, or GenPeace, which is committed to youth-led advocacy for a just and sustainable peace in the Philippines. The GenPeace team conducted workshops on the fundamentals of peace and conflict; human rights and international humanitarian law; local

and international youth peace initiatives; major conflict in the Philippines, focusing on the Communist Party, New People's Army, and National Democratic Front; and nonviolent conflict resolution strategies.

In Bayombong, the team provided three days of training to student leaders from universities in Nueva Vizcaya Province.

"Since environmental issues are one of the concerns of this province, we added peace and environment in our training module," Luciano said. "After the workshops, the participants came up with concrete plans on how to integrate the peace framework with their school activities."

On 30 July, the caravan headed to Sagada, another peace zone. On the way, it passed Banawe, whose Ifugao rice terraces are a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a "red area," so named for numerous ambushes and other killings there.

During the caravan's final two days, the team conducted a workshop for youth-group leaders and another for university students of different religious faiths.

Less than six weeks later, GenPeace represented the Philippines at an international youth conference in Siam Reap, Cambodia, celebrating the International Day of Peace on 21 September. The conference focused on genocide in Cambodia and Rwanda, peace and human rights in Guatemala, and other issues. GenPeace members participated in a peace march through Siam Reap and held workshops on youth peace initiatives and the effects of gun violence on youth.

"[Our] representatives carried the peace flag with the Filipino word for peace, which is *kapayapaan*," reported GenPeace on its Web site. "This represents our solidarity with the rest of the world and the principle of unity in diversity."



Ellis Luciano (far right) with other members of the North Luzon Peace and Human Rights Caravan. Luciano is now preparing to become a Catholic priest and works as a volunteer at the Gaston Z. Ortegaz Peace Institute.

## WHY I BECAME A ROTARIAN



Mauro Casal (second from left) and the GSE team from District 4900 (now 4855) in Bristol City, England, during a visit to the Rotary Club of Bristol (Breakfast)

## Rotary has changed my life

I have ties with Rotary dating from 1994, when I was 14. It was a privilege to have as my English teacher Miguel Cánchero, past governor of District 4900 (now 4855) in Argentina. He talked about Rotary during his English classes, so you could learn another language and about Rotary at the same time.

My father, stricken by polio when he was six months old, participated in a project to equip a rehabilitation center for the disabled, which was completed by the Rotary Club of Lobos with the help of a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant. Club members told my father and me about the PolioPlus program.

In March and early April 2007, I visited District 1100 (part of England and Wales) with a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from District 4900. Led by Past District Governor Hugo Zeyen, the team included Ignacio Gesualdi, a businessman; Andrés Paipa, a psychologist; Gustavo Trucco, a teacher; and me, a specialist in insurance for workplace accidents.

The GSE provided the opportunity for cultural and vocational exchange, including a presentation on Argentina by our team at club meetings and the district conference. We also enhanced ties between our respective countries, England and Argentina, both involved

in the 1982 Falklands War. On 2 April, the local media mentioned the 25th anniversary of the war; it was strange to be in an English home, but we were always treated cordially and respectfully. In discussions, the conclusion reached was always "War is unnecessary and doesn't solve anything. Peace can only be achieved through negotiations."

After my wonderful GSE experience, I attended the Rotary Foundation Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles last June, which made me appreciate Rotary even more. Convinced that Foundation alumni represent Rotary's hope for the future, I became a member of the Rotary Club of Lobos in July. I was sponsored by Past District Governor Cánchero, my former English teacher, who is a great friend and very knowledgeable about Rotary.

I wish to thank the Rotary Club of Lobos for sponsoring me for the GSE and helping me at all times; my wife, Ana Clara, who encouraged me to join Rotary; Past District Governor Hugo Zeyen; and District Governor-elect Oscar Vergara.

GSE gave me the opportunity to grow personally but most of all professionally, opening doors for me and leading to long-awaited recognition from my employer. Thank you, Rotary!

— Mauro Casal



As president of the Rotary Club of Bradford, Dick Hazlehurst (now a member of the Rotary Club of Keighley) was instrumental in bringing Life Education Centres mobile classrooms to his community.

## GSE sparks Life Education in Bradford, England

Rotary Foundation alumni often find their experiences lead to great ideas for Rotary service projects.

On a 1987 Group Study Exchange (GSE) to New South Wales, Australia, Rotarians from District 1040 (England) sat in on a Life Education Centres class. Impressed by how educators engaged children while teaching them to stay off drugs, the GSE team decided to bring the program back to Yorkshire.

GSE team leader David Pollard, of the Rotary Club of Bradford, West Yorkshire, led a fundraising effort and urged incoming club president Dick Hazlehurst to take up the cause. Hazlehurst (GSE'd 83-84 England to Brazil), a pharmacist interested in preventing drug abuse and the father of a six-year-old, decided to make Life Education the focus of his 1988-89 term.

Aiming to introduce the program to Bradford, club members reached out to city stakeholders. "We hoped to create an environment where the community of Bradford would want, even expect, Life Education for their children," Hazlehurst says.

One challenge was convincing those in teaching and drug-prevention circles that Life Education was not a threat but a tool. At the same time, Hazlehurst says, "the enjoyment came with making contact with a huge range of people and organizations that were outside my normal range. That is one of Rotary's great strengths: the contacts."

Bradford's first Life Education mobile classroom opened in 1990, reaching 12,000 children that year. Today, the organization operates five mobile classrooms and serves children ages 4 to 11 at almost every school in the city. Meanwhile, the Life Education curriculum has evolved to help kids develop good eating and exercise habits along with strategies for avoiding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. It also offers parenting classes.

**What's grown out of your Rotary Foundation experience?**  
Be sure to let us know at [alumni@rotary.org](mailto:alumni@rotary.org).

### A month to remember



Rotary Scholar alumni and Rotarians celebrate Rotary Foundation Month in Hong Kong. From left: Brady Sidwell (AS04-05 USA to Hong Kong), of the Rotary Club of Wanchai, Hong Kong; Sonia Wong (AS07-08 Macau to England); Mimi Fong (AS02-03 Macau to Australia); Hanny Wan (AS02-03 Hong Kong to USA); Raymond Sin, of the Rotary Club of Kingspark, Hong Kong; District 3450 alumni subcommittee chair Paul Ng; Past District Governor Alexander Mak; Past District Governor Tony Wong.

## German alumni association celebrates 10th anniversary

A decade ago, enthusiastic Rotary Foundation alumni in Germany formed an association to share their individual experiences abroad and build a network to carry out Service Above Self.

More than 130 German Foundation alumni gathered in Munich, 24-26 October, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the association, called Rotary Foundation Alumni Deutschland (RFAD).

"Mostly Ambassadorial Scholars and Group Study Exchange members but also Rotary Volunteers came to celebrate, get informed about what is taking place, network, reconnect, and take part in planning for the future," says Jürgen Wente, Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator for Zone 14 (west).

The program began on a crisp but sunny afternoon with a walking tour of Munich that focused on architectural landmarks. The festivities continued in the evening with alumni sharing fellowship over a traditional Bavarian meal at a local restaurant.

The following day, alumni and Rotarians gathered in Munich's BMW Pavilion for the main program. Franz Thurner, the celebration's BMW host and a member of the Rotary Club of München-Land welcomed the gathering, followed by video congratulations from Thomas Goppel, Bavarian state minister of Sciences, Research, and the Arts. Past RI Treasurer Hans Müller-Rech also spoke to the group, and Rotary Foundation General Manager John Osterlund and Ray Klingensmith, RI president-nominee and chair of the Rotary Foundation Alumni Advisory Committee, delivered video messages.

Alumni then heard reports on what RFAD has achieved since its founding, including its contribution to seminars

for outgoing and incoming scholars and members' participation in service projects and the first Rotary Alumni Celebration in Los Angeles in June. They also received a video message from Christiane Miethge, the first Ambassadorial Scholar to be funded through a gift from RFAD.

The afternoon session featured group discussions and workshops on efforts to connect with other alumni associations around the world, promoting more alumni activities in Germany, RFAD's role in Rotary's efforts to match the Gates Foundation's challenge grants for polio eradication, and potential improvements to the RFAD Web site.

Afterward, alumni headed to BMW's world headquarters for a special tour of the BMW Museum, followed by a reception and dinner at the Maximilianeum, home of the Bavarian Parliament. Alumni who studied music during their scholarship entertained diners with their talent, and Müller-Rech touted the importance of Rotary's efforts to end polio. German alumni responded by raising more than US\$1,700 for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge (see page 1).

On the celebration's last day, alumni toured the exhibit "Walt Disney's Wonderful World and Its Roots in European Art" at the Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung in central Munich. They also enjoyed traditional Bavarian food and fellowship at a beer garden and restaurant at the Chinese Tower.

"Participants in the celebration found it altogether informative as well as entertaining and instructive, showing the way that had been (followed) so far and motivating everybody to get active in the future," Wente says.



Alumni gather in Munich to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Rotary Foundation Alumni Deutschland.

### Putting fellowship to music



Current and former Ambassadorial Scholars and Rotary World Peace Fellows share an evening of international dancing and singing at the Welcome Party in Tokyo. The event is organized annually by the Rotary Fellows Tokyo alumni association.

# Former scholar takes fast track to Rotary service

Just two years after his Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, Corbett Daniel Parker, 28, not only became a Rotarian but also charter president of a new 24-member Rotary club.

With the help of other Foundation alumni, Parker formed the Rotary Club of Houston Skyline, Texas, USA, last June (see “Club brings new ideas, energy to Rotary”). The club has quickly become active in service projects, including a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant effort that will help educate communities in the Philippines about dengue fever.

“If we had more Corbett Parkers, Rotary could easily exceed its 1.2 million-member mark.”

Rhonda Kennedy

Parker’s interest in Rotary began as a 2005-06 scholar through his relationship with his sponsor club, the Rotary Club of Galleria Area (Houston), Texas, including sponsor counselor Pieter DeBuck. “I said, ‘Look at these Rotarians — they’re motivated by each others’ willingness to serve, they’re great friends, they’re making a positive impact.’ I definitely had an inclination to be a Rotarian even before I left for the scholarship.”

During his Rotary Scholarship in the Netherlands, Parker studied in the masters in European private law program at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. He participated in everything from forums on American foreign policy, to volunteering for Rotary club projects, to organizing Texas-style chili and barbeque dinners for Dutch and international students.

Parker says a supportive family, his

Christian faith, and a sense of giving back for the opportunities he received all helped cultivate his path to Rotary service. “I believe that knowledge calls, ultimately, for a life of service,” he says.

As an attorney practicing corporate transactional law in downtown Houston, Parker looked for a way to serve, and Rotary seemed like the logical next step. He talked with members of the Galleria Area club, including Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator D’Lisa Simmons, another former Rotary Scholar, about how to set up a new downtown Rotary club.

“The downtown area of Houston is underserved in Rotary, since our other downtown club moved out about 15 years ago. There was an excellent opportunity to bring Rotary back into downtown Houston and draw on a generation that is underrepresented in Rotary: professionals in their 20s, 30s, and 40s,” says Simmons, who transferred her membership to the Houston Skyline club, bringing her experience as a past district governor and work with Houston Foundation alumni.

Parker also visited clubs throughout District 5890 to enlist Foundation alumni to form the Greater Houston Area Rotary Foundation Alumni Association. In addition, he has given speeches at colleges in California and Texas to recruit potential candidates for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships, is a member of District 5890’s Ambassadorial Scholar Selection Committee, and will serve as the district’s Rotary Foundation alumni chair in 2009-10.

“Corbett is great to work with,” says District 5890 Governor Rhonda Kennedy. “If we had more Corbett Parkers, Rotary could easily exceed its 1.2 million-member mark. He’s one of those Rotarians who knows what needs to be done and just does it — without having to ask him. To have more Rotarians like that would be a district governor’s dream come true.”



Corbett Daniel Parker (first row, kneeling) and members of the Rotary Club of Houston Skyline pitch in on the club’s Habitat for Humanity Day.

## Club brings new ideas, energy to Rotary

The Rotary Club of Houston Skyline is one of the most diverse clubs in District 5890. Members include Latin and African Americans, and immigrants from Eastern and Western Europe, South America, and Africa, ranging from 23 to 50 years old. The club’s ranks include bankers, attorneys, medical researchers, social workers, and many other professionals, six Foundation alumni among them.

Corbett Daniel Parker says he isn’t interested in a Rotary club where people come for a meal, listen to people speak, maybe give a little money, then leave. “We get together and talk about each other’s lives and how we can go out and make a difference together in a profound way. Fellowship and service should take place every time we get together. I like to walk around and engage everyone, and keep the atmosphere light and fun.”

To attract a new generation of mem-

bers, the club has modernized its approach. Meetings take place over cocktails in the evening instead of mornings or during lunch, to accommodate members’ work schedules. Members under age 35 pay lower membership dues. Outside of meetings, Rotary fellowship continues through text and e-mail messaging and social networking Web sites like Facebook and LinkedIn.

Although the club’s approach may be new in Rotary, its commitment to service is not, as seen in its hands-on approach to community service. “We have a lot of sweat equity functions, such as sorting books in a warehouse for shipment to South Africa or working on a Habitat (for Humanity) home, or helping a cancer group conduct a race at 6 a.m.,” Past District Governor D’Lisa Simmons says. “There’s good participation and it’s not always the same people doing all the work.”

## Rotarians can help alumni receptions rise to the occasion

As assistant general coordinator of the Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators, I’m gratified to see that more and more Rotarians are recognizing Foundation alumni as a special asset and helping them stay connected to Rotary. A good way to do that is by holding a Foundation alumni reception in conjunction with a Rotary event such as a district conference or assembly or a Foundation, membership, or presidents-elect training seminar.

In the Washington, D.C., area, for example, semiannual alumni receptions are very popular with Rotarians and alumni

alike. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill, the reception brings together 40 to 60 alumni for several hours of networking; reconnecting with Rotarians, fellow alumni, and Rotary International; and learning about the Foundation’s efforts.

The Washington reception has traditionally been a stand-alone event, unconnected with another Rotary program or conference. In September, however, the reception was linked with the Rotary Institute for Zones 31 and 32 in Philadelphia, enabling alumni to interact with past, present, and future Rotary officers, including

RI directors and other senior leaders.

Here’s how Rotarians can link an alumni reception with a Rotary event:

- Talk to the chair of the institute, district conference, seminar, or other Rotary event you want to partner with and get permission for the alumni reception to be a part of it.
- Reserve a room for the reception for approximately two hours where the event is being held.
- Arrange for refreshments; light snacks and drinks are sufficient.
- If you’re the Rotary Foundation alumni coordinator (RFAC) for the area, work with the district Foundation committee, alumni subcommittee chair(s), or alumni association(s). Use the district alumni database to identify area alumni to develop an invitation list. If you’re the alumni subcommittee chair or interested in organizing an alumni reception, contact the RFAC for the region (see page 12 or www.rotary.org).
- Prepare written or electronic invitations. Ask alumni to RSVP to determine refreshment quantities.
- If alumni will be invited to sessions or meals before or after the reception, ask them to complete a registration form. (A fee can be charged for these activities, but it’s recommended that alumni not be charged for the reception.)

- Have a registration table where alumni can fill in a name tag on arrival. Collect up-to-date contact information from alumni and provide them with Rotary Foundation brochures or other materials.
- The reception should be long on networking, reconnecting, and conversation and short on program — 20 minutes of program is plenty.
- About an hour into the reception, welcome alumni and guests. Invite alumni to share brief comments, allowing time to answer any questions.
- The reception’s short-term goal is to reconnect with alumni, some of whom may not have heard from Rotarians in years. Longer-term goals can include alumni membership in a Rotary club, participation in service projects, and donations to the Foundation. Rotarians should be available at the reception to follow up with alumni interested in staying connected with Rotary.

Alumni receptions linked to Rotary events can be an easy and cost-effective way to get alumni together with each other and Rotarians, inspire the creation of an alumni association, and help strengthen the family of Rotary.

— Jeffrey Cadorette



Alumni in attendance included Marisa Collins (AS05-06 USA to Brazil); Kristen Welker (AS99-00 USA to Spain); Jeffrey Cadorette, the event organizer; and Peter Kyle (AS73-74 New Zealand to USA), District 7620 alumni subcommittee chair.

## CLASS NOTES

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

### 1950s

**Keith T. Smith** (AS59-60 USA to England, GSEt102-03 USA to Brazil) has been a Rotarian for over 45 years. He is the alumni subcommittee chair for District 7630 (Delaware; part of Maryland, USA). He has held numerous other positions in the district, including 2006-07 district governor.

### 1960s

**Hadar Cars** (AS61-62 Sweden to USA) is councillor and deputy lord mayor of Stockholm. He previously taught political science at Stockholm University in 1962-66 and served thereafter as secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce for Sweden and as executive vice president of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. He also served as Swedish cabinet minister of trade and was a member of the Swedish and European parliaments.

**Tom Trusky** (AS68-69 USA to Ireland), a professor of English, is director of the Hemingway Western Studies Center at Boise State University and head of the Library of Congress-affiliated Idaho Center for the Book. He recently published a critical biography and documentary about the internationally acclaimed, self-taught, likely autistic artist/bookmaker James Castle.



Trusky

### 1970s

**Jean Starkey** (AS72-73 USA to South Africa) joined the Rotary Club of Merritt Island, Florida, USA, in 1996. She was the centennial governor of District 6930 in 2004-05 and now is in her third year of serving as her district's Rotary Foundation committee chair. She thanks Rotary for the chance to make positive changes in the world.

### 1970s

**Dipankar Purakaayastha** (AS77-78 India to England) resides in Cambridge, England, and works from home with a network of management and financial consultants based in more than 10 geographical areas, including India, the United Kingdom, and the United States. He is involved in socio-economic projects that are waiting to be funded in Barbados, India, Trinidad, and the United Kingdom.

**Baltej Singh Mann** (GSEtm78-79 India to England) is the Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur national integration chair, a professor, and the former dean of Punjabi University in Patiala, India.

**Martine Rahier** (AS78-79 Belgium to USA) recently became the first female president of a university in French-speaking Switzerland. She was appointed to the University of Neuchâtel, where 4,000 students attend five schools.

**James DeCaro** (AS79-80 USA to England) is director of the Post-secondary Education Network-International at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf. He received the 2008 Contribution to Society Award from Japan's Foundation for Encouragement of Social Contribution. He was honored for furthering the education of hearing-impaired people around the world. He and his wife reside in Pittsford, New York, USA.



DeCaro

### 1980s

**Sanjiva Wijesinha** (GSEtm82-83 Sri Lanka to USA; UT04-05 Australia to Sri Lanka) is the author of the new book *Friends*. The collection of short stories from his childhood was launched in Sri Lanka in December.

**Homer L. Williams** (GSEt183-84 USA to England) returned to the University of Hawaii, Manoa, in 2007 and received his doctorate in architecture after 50 years of practice in the field. He was awarded the degree by the university's chancellor and now is an adjunct professor of architecture at the institution.



Williams

### 1980s

**Jennifer Mergy** (AS84-85 USA to France) is on an assignment with the U.S. Embassy in Paris, working on energy, transportation, and infrastructure issues. She is also a Paul Harris Fellow.

**Elizabeth Carmack** (AS86-87 USA to England) is a writer and founder of Liz Carmack Communications ([www.lizcarmack.com](http://www.lizcarmack.com)) in Austin, Texas, USA, as well as the Austin city expert for the travel Web site [www.homeandabroad.com](http://www.homeandabroad.com). She traveled more than 17,000 miles to visit 64 historic hotels in Texas to write her book, *Historic Hotels of Texas: A Traveler's Guide* (Texas A&M University Press).

**R. Muthukumar** (GSEtm86-87 India to The Netherlands) is director of the International School of Business and Research in Kodaikanal, India. He still maintains contact with and is visited by some of the Dutch host families from his GSE.



Muthukumar

**Don Allen** (GSEt188-89 Australia to India) traveled to India to establish a freshwater well and work with farm projects in the state of Tamil Nadu. A pharmacist, he recently sold his private practice in Bendigo, Australia, and has retired to Geelong.

**Juan-Carlos Arias** (GSEtm88-89 Spain to USA) is a detective and criminologist living in Seville, Spain. In 1982, he created the detective agency ADAS ([www.adaspain.com](http://www.adaspain.com)), which helps battered women and accident victims with limited resources.

**Tony Britt** (GSEtm88-89 Australia to India) has made several trips back to Assisi, India, since his exchange and is still greatly involved in his original GSE project.

**Jerry Brong** (GSEt188-89 USA and Canada to Australia) is president of the Rotary Club of Ellensburg Morning, Washington, USA. Semi-retired, he is still actively facilitating online courses for Walden University's Richard W. Riley College of Education and Leadership.

**Bradley Fenner** (GSEtm88-89 Australia to Ireland and Northern Ireland) was recently appointed headmaster of King's College in Auckland, New Zealand.

### 1980s

**Elizabeth Rosner** (AS88-89 USA to Australia) is an author living in Berkeley, California, USA. Her highly acclaimed novels include *The Speed of Light* and *Blue Nude*. These books, along with her prize-winning poems and essays, reflect her commitment to the power of creativity in supporting human rights, global understanding, and reconciliation.



Rosner

**Laurence Budd** (GSEtm89-90 USA to England and Wales) is a water conservation specialist for the City of Pasadena, California, USA. He is a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program as well as a member of and speaker for the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

**Deirdre Cooke** (AS89-90 Australia to USA) works as the rehabilitation coordinator for the Mater Private Hospital in Brisbane, Australia, and lectures on occupational therapy at the University of Queensland. She completed her PhD research to standardize a test for poststroke visual perception, the OT-APST, which is now widely used in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities in Australia and other countries.

### 1990s

**David L. Knutson** (AS91-92 USA to Argentina) joined a small group to start up the North American investment management operations of Legal and General in Chicago. Before joining the buy side, he worked as an investment banker at UBS and a correspondent banker for Latin America at Bank of America. He has earned the Chartered Financial Analyst, Financial Risk Manager, and Chartered Market Technician designations from the CFA Institute, Global Association of Risk Professionals, and Market Technician Association.



Knutson

**Melanie Fales** (AS92-93 USA to France) served as interim executive director and curator of education for the Boise Art Museum in Idaho, USA, and was promoted to executive director in November. She serves as an officer on the board of the Western Museums Association and as an adjunct faculty member for both Boise State University and the University of Idaho.

**Alessandra Cartocci** (GSEtm94-95 Italy to USA) is a pianist, musical therapist, and vocal trainer. She earned a postgraduate degree in musical therapy from the University of Bristol, England.

**Masamitsu Horii** (GSEtm94-95 Japan to France) is the mayor's secretary for the City of Oyamazaki, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. He has inspired his co-worker Tahahiro Ueda to join an upcoming GSE trip bound for West Virginia, USA.

**Jennifer Sims** (AS94-95 USA to Germany) moved back to Germany to work with Daimler Financial Services and is a manager of business processes and projects for the company's worldwide headquarters in Berlin.

## Garnering high honors



**Path Heang** (RWPF02-04 Cambodia to Australia) received the prestigious 2008 University International Alumni of the Year award from the Queensland Government's Queensland Education and Training International. He was also honored as 2008 International Alumnus of the Year by the University of Queensland and named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Club of Mooloolaba, Queensland. Heang works as a specialist in the Access to Justice Project of the United Nations Development Programme.

## A perfect record



Current and former Rotary World Peace Fellows from Iceland meet face to face for the first time in Reykjavik. District 1360 is the only one that has sponsored a peace fellow annually since the program began in 2002. From left: Rún Ingvarsdóttir (04-06 to USA), Palina Matthiasdóttir (09-11 to USA), Palin Helgadóttir (07-09 to England), Ólóf Magnúsdóttir (05-07 to Australia), Helga Thorolfsdóttir (03-05 to England), Helga-Bára Bragadóttir (02-04 to England), Fanney Karlsdóttir (08-10 to Australia).

## KEEP US IN THE LOOP!

Please send your update for the next edition of Class Notes to [alumni@rotary.org](mailto:alumni@rotary.org), using the subject line "Class Notes."

### PROGRAM CODES

AS – Ambassadorial Scholarships    GSEt1 – Group Study Exchange (team leader)    GSEtm – Group Study Exchange (team member)  
RV – Rotary Volunteers    RWPF – Rotary World Peace Fellowships    UT – Rotary Grant for University Teachers recipient

## CLASS NOTES

## 1990s

**Shrimati Das** (GSEtm95-96 India to Ecuador) is head of a college English department and is currently conducting a survey on Internet crime against women and adolescent girls for India's National Commission for Women.

**Alexander Kamilewicz** (AS95-97 USA to England) and **Deborah Plager** (AS96-97 USA to England) met through the Ambassadorial Scholarships program in their study country and later married. On 22 August, they had a baby boy, Samuel Micha.

**Etsuko Kato** (AS95-96 Japan to Canada) received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Toronto and is a professor of anthropology at International Christian University in Tokyo. She is conducting research on the worldviews of Japanese youth in Canada. She plans to publish the conclusion in 2009.

**Darcy Noricks** (AS95-96 USA to France) is an associate political scientist at the RAND Corporation, based in Santa Monica, California, USA. Her research focuses on terrorism, deradicalization, and other homeland security-related topics.

**Clint Schmidt** (AS95-96 USA to England) is a clinical immunologist at Dendreon Corporation in Seattle. He is involved with clinical trials investigating cellular immunotherapies for cancer. He is also helping to put together a book on vaccinology that covers current and ongoing mass immunization programs, including one to eradicate polio.

**Puthurajan Sritharan** (GSEt195-96 India to Brazil) lives at the southernmost tip of India and is involved in the demolition industry, working for Trinity Stewards Private Ltd. He works with his son, and both are Rotarians.

**Teresa Heinz Housel** (AS96-97 USA to Australia) is an assistant professor of communication at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, USA.

**Gert Brillenburg Wurth** (RV96-97 The Netherlands to Nicaragua) is celebrating his 12th year of providing medical supplies and materials, eco-agricultural support for farmers, and school buildings in a partnership with the Rotary Club of Chinandega, Chinandega, Nicaragua. A physician, he has helped over 240 families and countless patients with the aid of his friend and fellow Rotarian Ernst Godding.

**Maria D. Costa** (GSEtm97-98 USA to Thailand) is director of International Programs and Services at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, USA.



Wurth

## 1990s

**Sibongile (Bongi) Damoyi** (AS97-98 South Africa to USA) works in the design industry and recently relocated from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Toronto.

**Roberto F. Scott Holohlavsky** (GSEt197-98 Mexico to Spain) has written a book, *Mi Reporte*, in which he describes his GSE experience and how it has affected him and his teammates over the 10 years since their return. The book also serves as a guide for future GSE groups.



Holohlavsky

**Rocio Mimbela** (GSEtm97-98 Peru to England) is a speech therapist working for the Early Intervention Program of New York City.

**Karin Rosskopf** (AS98-99 Germany to New Zealand) lives in California, USA, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Manhattan Beach. She and her husband, Franz, had a baby girl on 22 August.



Rosskopf

**Paulo Amorim** (GSEtm99-00 Brazil to Thailand) is an emergency-room surgeon working with the Indian Institute for Medical Emergency Services, a nongovernmental organization. In February, he traveled to India to train doctors and emergency medical technicians in methods designed to increase emergency care standards.

**Tony Asfour** (GSEt199-00 Lebanon to USA) became a Rotarian in 1996 and has served as president of the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, Lebanon, and chair of his district's GSE subcommittee. As a host counselor, he has aided numerous Ambassadorial Scholars at the American University of Beirut.

**Chris Goninon** (GSEtm99-00 Australia to Brazil; GSEt107-08 Australia to Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) is an administrator at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. He joined the Rotary Club of Albany Creek after returning from his GSE and now serves as club secretary.

**Ron Nethercutt** (UT99-00 USA to the Philippines) retired after teaching in the College of Music at the University of the Philippines. A member of the Rotary Club of Clark Centennial, Angeles, Philippines, he is currently director of the Center for American Studies at the Angeles University Foundation and the officer in charge of the university's radio station.

**Xuan Hue Quach** (AS99-00 USA to Australia) is assistant director of the Rotary Center for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution at the University of California, Berkeley.

## 1990s

**Eleanor Rimoldi** (UT99-00 New Zealand to Papua New Guinea) is researching and writing about cultural economic theory and its potential for new models of development. Her work is based on her experience in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, a kin-based, matrilineal society where women own the land and resources, in contrast to individualized, Western economic models.

**Paul Turner** (AS99-00 USA to South Africa) is a conflict prevention officer and an international development consultant in Washington, D.C. He was recently in Tbilisi, Georgia, with USAID's disaster assistance response team.

## 2000s

**Haresh Asnani** (GSEtm00-01 India to Korea) is a vitreoretinal surgeon and will be the president of the Rotary Club of Bombay Chembur West, Maharashtra, India, in 2009-10. He has hosted GSE team members from Colorado, USA, and has participated in several GSE orientation programs for his Rotary club.

**Renee Brincks** (AS00-01 USA to Australia) is a freelance features journalist and copywriter who covers travel, wellness, and lifestyle topics. She recently relocated to San Francisco and lives for part of the year in Iowa, USA.

**Natty Moodley** (GSEt100-01 South Africa to Turkey) runs his own accounting and taxation service in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. He has served as a host counselor and will be district governor for 2009-10.

**Emerson Nonato Silva** (GSEtm00-01 Brazil to Argentina) is a secondary school teacher and president of the Rotary Club of Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Silva

**Lewis Aptekar** (UT01-02 USA to Zambia) returned to Zambia several times and developed a service learning project between San Jose State University, where he is a professor, and the University of Zambia. In October, he taught a course in Zambia funded by UNICEF.

**Karl M. Steene** (GSEt101-02 USA to Japan) works for the Royal Bank of Canada. He is assistant governor of District 6930 (Florida, USA), is a past president of the Rotary Club of Treasure Coast Vero Beach, and was named the Vero Beach Philanthropist of the Year in 2007.

**Mary Volmer** (AS01-02 USA to Wales) published her first novel, *Crown of Dust* (HarperCollins UK), in 2006 and is working on her second book. She is the founding director of the Saint Mary's College of California Honors Program in Moraga, California, USA, and the faculty mentor for the school's first Rotaract club.

## 2000s

**Morgan Barense** (AS02-03 USA to England) is working as an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Toronto (St. George's campus). His research focuses on how memory functions are organized in the brain and how they deteriorate after brain damage or disease — work he began during his time as an Ambassadorial Scholar.

**Andrew Bowles** (AS02-03 Canada to England) works for one of Canada's leading government relations firms and previously worked for municipal and provincial leaders in Ontario. He is pleased to announce that he married his sweetheart, Kara, on 26 April 2008.

**Jason El Koubi** (AS02-03 USA to England) was recently appointed the first director of economic competitiveness for the State of Louisiana, USA, in Baton Rouge. He will direct projects that strategically advance the state's economic development efforts through public policy improvements and targeted investments.

**Stefano Gnes** (RWPf02-04 Italy to France) is a corporate relations manager at the Community of European Management Schools head office in Paris.

**Khaleen Grant** (RWPf02-04 Jamaica to France) is a policy manager for serious and transnational organized crime for the Jamaica Ministry of National Security in Kingston.

**Chantal Habibi-Paydar** (RWPf02-04 USA to Argentina) works in Kampala, Uganda, as a project officer with the Association of Volunteers in International Service, an Italian nongovernmental organization.

**Jim McKinley** (UT02-03 USA to Uganda) stays connected to the people and projects in Kampala, Uganda, including the Kitenges Community Library ([www.kitengeslibrary.org](http://www.kitengeslibrary.org)). He returned there in 2003 to serve as registrar for the third Pan-African Literacy Conference, which he had helped organize. He also has enjoyed teaching at Sophia University in Tokyo for several years.



McKinley

**Lucas McMillan** (AS02-03 USA to England) earned a PhD in political science and joined the faculty of Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina, USA, in August. He still keeps in touch with his Rotary counselors from England and enjoys meeting Lander students interested in Rotary's scholarship programs. One student was recently awarded a Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship.

**Derran Moss** (RWPf02-04 Australia to USA) is based in Brisbane, Australia, where he is a senior policy adviser to the attorney general, minister for justice, and minister assisting the premier in western Queensland, the Honorable Kerry Shine MP.

## Gathering from across the nation



**Pravin Dixit** (RWPf02-04 India to USA), police commissioner of Nagpur, addresses the 2008 All India Rotary Foundation Alumni Reunion. The event, held in Goa, drew a large group of alumni and Rotarians for fellowship and recognition of achievements. At center is Past District Governor Gulam Vahanvaty (GSEtm77-78 India to USA); right, District Governor Pranesh Jahagirdar (GSEtm92-93 India to USA and Argentina).

## In good company



Foundation alumni who attended Harvard University get together for their annual dinner meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. From left: Aina Alpeissova (AS01-02 Kazakhstan to USA), Shannon O'Brien (RWPf03-05 USA to Japan), Gani Abazi (AS06-08 Kosovo to USA), Woosook Jo (AS07-08 Korea to USA), Brent Drage, Mitzi Clawson (AS92-93 USA to South Africa), Past RI Director Mark Daniel Maloney (GSEt186-87 USA to Nigeria), Sue Kinzie, Frank Kinzie (AS76-77 USA to Belgium), current president of the Rotary Club of Beverly, Massachusetts, USA.

## CLASS NOTES

## 2000s

**Jan Nemecek** (RWPF02-04 Czech Republic to Argentina) is a coordination officer for the United Nations country team in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

**Kristin Wilson** (AS02-03 USA to Costa Rica) completed an MBA after her scholarship year and moved back to Costa Rica. She continues to be involved in the same community service projects she participated in as a scholar, including an annual event called Pura Vida No Pro, which helps orphans in San José. More information about the project can be found at <http://puravidanopro.com>.

**Alicia Cerruti** (AS03-04 USA to Australia) was inducted into the Rotary Club of Petaluma Sunrise, California, USA, in 2008.

**Mariano Griva** (RWPF03-05 Argentina to Australia) works for the Jesuit Refugee Service in Papua New Guinea, where he advocates for refugees, carries out protection work, and trains workers in refugee and human rights.

**Anne-Sophie Massa** (RWPF03-05 Belgium to USA) works at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands, focusing on a doctoral project on the creation of a criminal code for the European Union. She also teaches a class on European cooperation in criminal matters, comparative criminal procedure, and international criminal and humanitarian law.

**William Nealy** (GSEtm03-04 USA to Korea) is a business development consultant at Impact International in Tokyo. He is responsible for developing sustainable enterprise, community engagement, and environmental sustainability businesses in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

**Crystal Procyshen** (RWPF03-05 Canada to Japan) was promoted to senior analyst in the Canadian International Development Agency's Strategic Policy and Planning Division for the Europe, Maghreb, and Middle East branch in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

**Larissa Bruun** (RWPF04-06 Finland to Australia) is a communication and program officer with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Laos.

**George DuSoe** (AS04-05 USA to The Netherlands) has recently taken a position as a foreign service officer. He credits his experience as an Ambassadorial Scholar for helping to strengthen his profile as a candidate and changing his life in many profound and positive ways.

**Timothy Haynes** (RWPF04-06 USA to France) is a foreign service officer with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., and will be assigned to Hong Kong in June. He recently joined the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.).

**Lisa Morris** (AS04-05 England to South Africa) was recently invited back to South Africa to attend the dedication ceremony of a children's palliative care ward named in her honor. During her trip, she witnessed the significant impact of the water pump projects she helped support during her scholarship year. She has also been named a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

**Analia Ramos** (RWPF04-06 Argentina to England) is a food security coordinator for Concern in South Sudan.

**Josephus Tenga** (RWPF04-06 Canada to USA) is assistant director of the Carter Center's conflict resolution program in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

**Cherine Badawi** (RWPF05-07 USA to Japan) is director of curriculum and training for a social justice education nonprofit called the Mosaic Project, based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Rupesh Bhandari** (GSEtm05-06 India to Korea) owns and manages a clinical diagnostic center in Amritsar, India.



Bhandari

## 2000s

**Ryan Fenwick** (RWPF05-07 USA to Japan) is an assistant account executive with the international affairs team at Edelman Public Relations in Washington, D.C.

**Gwen B. Fischer** (UT05-06 USA to Tanzania) is a professor emerita in the Psychology Department of Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, USA. While teaching in Tanzania, she visited a project in Mwanza that helped provide foster families, clothing, and school fees to street children. She continues to assist this effort by giving talks at Rotary clubs in Ohio, which have raised generous support from Rotarians.

**Valeska Olavarría Gallardo** (GSEtm05-06 Chile to USA) is a journalist living in Coyhaique, Chile.

**Martín Kunik** (RWPF05-07 Argentina to USA) is an economics professor at the Argentine Catholic University in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has been teaching urban economics.

**Sallie Lacy** (RWPF05-07 USA to Australia) works in Frankfurt for GTZ, the German government's international development arm, in a climate protection program for developing countries.

**Scott Lang** (RWPF05-07 USA to England) is a junior officer with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.

**Ólöf Magnúsdóttir** (RWPF05-07 Iceland to Australia) works for UNICEF Iceland in Reykjavík. She is also a member of the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit.

**Deepak T.M. Nathan** (GSEtm05-06 India to USA) lives in Chennai, India, and is the state vice president of the Tamil Nadu Federation for the physically disabled.

**Mandi Anne Vuinovich** (RWPF05-07 USA to Australia) works for the International Rescue Committee in Tucson, Arizona, USA, focusing on refugee resettlement issues, community outreach, and capacity building.

**Linda Block** (AS06-07 USA to Mexico) is using her Spanish-language skills in her work with local Latino store owners to replace lead-tainted products to prevent poisoning. She recently accompanied a group of university students for a spring-break service-learning experience in Bolivia.

**Adrian Davis** (RWPF06-08 USA to England) is a development officer with the Denver Rescue Mission in Colorado, USA, which provides food, clothing, and shelter for the homeless and working poor in the Denver area.

**Christina DeAngelis** (RWPF06-08 Australia to England) is an international coordinator for Initiatives of Change in Sydney, Australia. She is working on a program called Creators of Peace that aims to empower women to become peace-builders in their own communities and nations.

**Mark Duey** (AS06-07 USA to Spain) is regional program coordinator for a school water, sanitation, and hygiene education program being implemented in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua by CARE, Catholic Relief Services, and Water for People.

**Peter Emberson** (RWPF06-08 Fiji to Australia) is the assistant director charged with a campaign focused on human rights, decolonization, and the right to self-determination for the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre in Suva, Fiji.

**Cassio Furtado** (RWPF06-08 Brazil to Australia) teaches a course on geopolitics to teenagers at Michigan and Média 10, two prep schools in Brazil. He is also an international commentator for two radio stations in Brazil, where he delivers four weekly commentaries on international issues.

## 2000s

**Nichole Graber** (AS06-07 USA to Australia) recently accepted a position with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Transition Initiatives as a program manager for the Asia and Middle East team. She is helping to lay the foundation for long-term development in Pakistan and Sri Lanka by promoting reconciliation and fostering peace and democracy through innovative programming and small grant activities.

**Gohar Gyulumyan** (RWPF06-08 Armenia to USA) took a position with the World Bank in Armenia.

**Jeremy Hessler** (AS06-07 USA to Ireland) was married on 25 March 2008, and began law school in the fall of 2008 at the University of California, Hastings.

**Isabelle Michaud-Létourneau** (RWPF06-08 Canada to USA) is pursuing a PhD in nutrition at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, USA.

**Trent Newman** (RWPF06-08 Australia to USA) works in Australia for the Sydney Peace Foundation as a coordinator of the Schools Peace Initiative. The new project is aimed at promoting peace education in high schools and encouraging young Australians to develop and implement projects and activities related to peace and social justice.

**Phillip Phiri** (RWPF06-08 USA to Japan) is working for Berlitz Japan in Tokyo.

**Terdsak Putson** (RWPF06 Thailand) works in the Office of Anti-Corruption in the Public Sector for Thailand's Ministry of Justice in Bangkok.

**Maria Rossel** (RWPF06-08 Peru to USA) is consulting for the Peace Appeal Foundation for a future peace-building project in Colombia's Pacific region.

**Johanna Stratton** (RWPF06-08 Japan) is a program associate for the peace and governance program at United Nations University in Tokyo.

**Noelle Volin** (RWPF06-08 USA to Japan) is pursuing a JD at Hamline University Law School in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.

**Yvonne Wong** (RWPF06-08 Australia to USA) is working on her JSD dissertation and involved with the Berkeley Law 2048 Human Rights project.

**Cheryl Cheek** (UT07-08 USA to Isle of Man) is an associate professor of human development and family studies at Pennsylvania State University in Mont Alto, Pennsylvania, USA. Continuing the Manx identity research that she began on the Isle of Man, she is presently working with the North American Manx Association to look at Manx identity in North America.

## 2000s

**Savath Meas** (RWPF07 Thailand) is a trainer/coordinator for the Access to Justice Project of the United Nations Development Programme in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**Sarin Nhek** (RWPF07 Cambodia to Thailand) is an organizational development adviser for the Forum Syd, a Swedish donor agency in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**Shawn Parker** (GSEtm07-08 USA to Argentina) recently returned from his GSE and joined the Rotary Club of Miami Beach, Florida, USA. He will serve as club president for 2009-10.

**Cherukuri Srinivasa Rao** (GSEtm07-08 India to USA) recently joined the Rotary Club of Hyderabad L.B. Nagar, Andhra Pradesh, India.

**Edgardo Rubén Roma** (GSEtm07-08 Argentina to Mexico) joined the Rotary Club of Venado Tuerto, Santa Fe, Argentina, in 1985 and is a member of the Paul Harris Society.

**Larry Siegel** (RV07-08 USA to Malawi) has been hard at work providing clean drinking water to eight rural villages in Malawi and performing fieldwork for a Matching Grant project. Four wells have already been started, as has extensive work on a low-cost sand filter, able to easily sanitize a family's daily water supply.

**Pushpanjali Solanki** (GSEtm07-08 India to USA) returned to her home of Kolhapur, India, after her GSE in May. She recently became a member of the Rotary Club of Kolhapur Central, Maharashtra.

**Alejandro Sueldo** (AS07-08 USA to Russia) is a graduate student at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He is also working with the U.S. Department of State on political and security issues related to Europe and Eurasia.



Sueldo

During the summer of 2009, he will return to Russia to work with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

## KEEP US IN THE LOOP!

Please send your update for the next edition of Class Notes to [alumni@rotary.org](mailto:alumni@rotary.org), using the subject line "Class Notes."

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