



Rotary Foundation Alumni Coordinator (RFAC) Monthly Bulletin November 2007

Message from 2008-09 Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe



First, please accept my deepest thanks for your strong commitment to your role as Rotary Foundation alumni coordinators. As you know, November is Rotary Foundation month and is therefore an opportune time to encourage clubs and districts to invite Foundation alumni as speakers or otherwise be involved in their activities. This month also presents a great occasion to persuade district membership chairs to extend invitations to alumni to join Rotary clubs.

Our alumni are crucial to the survival of Rotary clubs and our organization as a whole; please remember this year's Foundation goal: "Reconnecting with Rotary Foundation alumni- Our lost assets." I hope to see many of you and your regions' alumni at the

Rotary Alumni Celebration on 13-14 June 2008 in Los Angeles, California.

Change in RFAC Leadership

Don Osburn will no longer be serving as RFAC general coordinator. Effective 16 November, Rodney Mazinter has accepted the position of general coordinator and will serve until the end of the Rotary year.

Comments from General Coordinator Rodney Mazinter

I wish to pay tribute to, and thank Don Osburn for his work, sage advice and friendship over the time he has served as general coordinator of RFACs. He entered into the spirit of the program with energy, bringing his wealth of experience in Rotary to our discussions. His inability to continue will be viewed with regret by those who were privileged to work with him. We wish him well in his future work in Rotary. Rotary is more than an organization made up of men and women providing service; the whole is much greater than its parts. Rotarians come and go but their departure makes no difference to the ideals that were created in the minds and hearts of its founders and those who followed. With intellect and compassion Rotarians down the years strove to mould an institution that attracts men and women of all ages, cultures and religions to its banner. During Rotary Foundation month it is worth remembering the insightful genius that has extended Rotary's ideals to encompass talented young people, not only to give them an undreamed of opportunity, but to help Rotary extend its standards of peace, personal fulfillment, service, ethics, fellowship and world understanding among the "family of nations." That this effort is a success is borne out by the influence that these alumni of The Rotary Foundation have, not only while living out their time of scholarship or exchange, but long afterwards as they carve out their independent life's niches, impacting on the human condition by means of what Rotary has helped them achieve. Their vision is Rotary's and Rotary's vision is theirs. We can do no better for the growth/survival of Rotary in the 21st Century than to explore every effort to keep them close, culminating in bringing them into Rotary.

1st Quarter Activity Report Highlights

Thanks to the following RFACs that turned in first quarter reports not mentioned in the previous bulletin:

Hallage: On July 15 I presented a certificate to the new Alumni Association of District 4630 during the Rotary Foundation Seminar that was held in the city of Maringá.

Harcourt: I have corresponded with all Alumni Sub-committee chairs in my zone by phone and email.

Okamoto: Alumni were included in the selection committee for scholars and orientations on alumni association for recently selected program participants.

Sharma: Visits were made to the following Districts in the month of June 2007 to promote Alumni Associations: District 3070, 3090 & 3110.

Alumni in the November issue of The Rotarian

- 2005-06 and 2006-07 Ambassadorial Scholars are featured on p. 26 in an article about the 2nd annual AIDS hike that they are organizing.
- A brief biography about Philip Lader, 2006-07 Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award winner, is on p. 29.
- Don Goering and Giancarlo Moretti, both GSE team leader alumni, are featured in the In Focus section *Give a little, give a lot* about their contributions to The Rotary Foundation on p.32-35.
- An article on p. 55-56 about Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies alumni Thevananth Thevanayagam and Raveendra Pathiranaige talks about the unique relationship they have formed despite the political turmoil in their country of Sri Lanka.

All articles can be viewed in the attached pdf.

November Reconnections

The new edition of *Reconnections* is out! Please feel free to send the attached pdf to Rotarians and alumni in your zones. It is currently being mailed to all RFACs, RRFs, alumni chairs, district governors, and alumni for whom we have up-to-date addresses, for a total circulation of over 65,000 people.

What Paul Harris Said- 4 November

What Paul Harris said is a bi-weekly newsletter which offers a quote from Paul Harris and a brief reflection on what that means to Rotary today. The following passage is from the newsletter of two weeks ago:

"At our fireside scores of friends from all corners of the globe have delighted us by their presence. They have come as the result of my planting a sapling in 1905. The first Rotary Club was that sapling. It has grown into a mighty tree in whose shade it is delightful to dwell." My Road to Rotary, chapter 42, 1947.

November is Rotary Foundation month. The Rotary Foundation allows every one of us to join together from all corners of the world. If Rotary is a mighty tree as Paul Harris suggests it is because of the support of thousands of friends all working towards the same goals.

This year we continue to focus on the eradication of polio; re-connecting with our Foundation Alumni; and fully committing to the belief that Peace is Possible through our Rotary World Peace Centers.

As friends who come together, working on these tasks, we also need to realize that we can only achieve our goals through supporting The Rotary Foundation – Every Rotarian Every Year.

Calum Thomson

RGHF Chairman/President 2006/07 (To sign up, visit: <http://www.rotaryhistoryfellowship.org/minute/>)

Rotary Alumni Celebration Update

All English-speaking district governors have been sent information via e-mail about the Rotary Alumni Celebration, including a flyer, list of frequently asked questions, and cover letter. Other languages will be sent out to remaining districts soon. The Rotary Foundation Trustees have formally asked that all RFACs and RRFs promote the Rotary Alumni Celebration to their fullest extent.

Rotary Day at the UN

The annual Rotary Day at the UN event took place this year on 3 November. The event featured a presentation by Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program alumnus Richelieu Allison, of Liberia, who received the day's only standing ovation. "Rotary has become a passer of the light," Allison said. "The Four-Way Test has transformed my life. It can transform the world." Read more about Rotary Day at the UN at http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/071106_news_UNday.aspx

RFAC Training Institute

An RFAC Training Institute will **not** be taking place in 2008. In lieu of this event, Alumni Relations staff will be developing a training manual that both the existing RFACs and new RFACs will be able to use as a tool in preparing for their year in office.

Pictures of recent Alumni Gatherings in London and in Kalamazoo, MI, USA



London, England- 5 November 2007

Kalamazoo, MI- 8 November 2007