

2015 Rotary Person of the Year: John Daniels

The Rotary Person of the Year (RPY) Award recognizes individuals, executives and entrepreneurs who have made the Milwaukee community a better place to live and work. The Award recognizes significant contributions and leadership in the advancement of ideas, products or services.



2015 Rotary Person of the Year
John Daniels

he led the firm through a fundamental transformation, shifting from the traditional operational model upon which most major law firms are built to a client-centric, business-minded organization. John drove that cultural shift in the midst of the worst economy since the Great Depression, leading the firm to significant growth while much of the legal industry declined.

John is well recognized in the legal community as well as the business community. He has served as the national president for his professional organization, American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He was identified as one of the "100 Managing Partners You Need to Know" by Lawdragon in 2008, named 2009 "Lawyer of the Year" by the Milwaukee Bar Association, and named 2013 "Partner of the Year" by a group of managing partners affiliated with the National Bar Association, among other professional accolades too numerous to list.

John has further led Quarles to a position of industry prominence

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Farewell from President John



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your club President. Successful leadership is certainly a team sport. Thus, my sincere thanks and appreciation go to our Board of Directors, 35+ committee chairs, our outstanding staff, Mary and Liz, and all our club members for everyone's contributions to making it a successful year!

Together, we improved and strengthened the value of our great Rotary Club. Our weekly programs enabled you to hear from many diverse, top speakers. Tyrotarian tours – including one of our Rockwell Automation's Allen-Bradley clock tower and green roof – as well as other professional development activities hopefully continued to fulfill your desire to learn and grow.

We sustained our long history of service through your good works, whether it was Done-in-a-Day projects, educational programs, the Scholarship Golf Classic, military support or your contributions to help eradicate polio from the planet. Our hands-on international project in Guatemala continued to exemplify the new model for personal world service.

One of the many highlights of my year were those opportunities to humbly but honestly brag a little about our great club – intermissions at LIVE @ the Lakefront concerts, the War Memorial Center press event recognizing our club's \$100,000 contribution to their restoration campaign, the MANDI Awards. Together, we continued to live up to our club motto of being "Leaders who make a difference!"

However, I hope the legacy of my Presidency will be our new Global Milwaukee Committee (GMC). In addition to the professional, social and service benefits of our club, some members are now getting extra value from connecting with members in other clubs – often around the world. Globe-trotting members like Dave Bishop and Teresa Esser visited clubs in Japan and Korea. Veteran Rotarians like Bill Coleman and Allen Sells can tell you other ways that they've personally experienced the value of being part of an international organization with over 34,000 clubs and more than 1.2 million members. We've even attracted a few new members this year by talking about the international

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Two RCM Scholars Graduate

This May two of our RCM Scholars graduated after years of mentoring and financial support from the RCM Scholarship Program. We will recognize both scholars at an upcoming June Rotary meeting. Read more about Natasha Todd and Jessica Ortiz below.



Natasha Todd

By Kathleen O'Brien, Natasha's RCM mentor

Natasha was named a Rotary Scholar four years ago after graduating from Rufus King High School. She was accepted into Marquette University's School of Nursing and will graduate this May 17th. Natasha loves pediatric nursing and plans to seek employment

at either Children's Hospital or Rogers Memorial once she has passed the NCLEX exam scheduled for this June.

During her four years at Marquette Natasha worked over 20 hours a week mostly for ATC (Autism Treatment for Children) an agency that helps autistic kids develop social and behavioral skills through play and special programs. This is one of the reasons she may seek employment at Rogers or a similar institution that have an adolescent psychiatric unit.

When asked what helped her persist to graduation, Natasha said that her mother and grandpa were great role models for her and terrific supporters. "I saw them working so hard all their lives" said Natasha, "They are great motivators for me." She added that a 5th grade teacher really opened her eyes about what she could become.

Her persistence and good grades are noticed at Marquette too. She has been asked to introduce that university's president, Mike Lovell, at an upcoming luncheon for Educational Opportunity Scholars.

She also has good advice for future scholars: "Just say no when your friends want you to hang out." It was hard for her to stay focused and disciplined but she knew that she couldn't spend a lot of time with her friends until she studied and moved forward. "Now they really look up to me since I am accomplishing my goal. I hope I can continue to be a role model once I graduate." So what's in the future for Natasha? She loves to read and hopes

to get a bit of time off this summer to do fun reading and reconnect with friends. She also sees herself going to graduate school in a few years to earn a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner degree. With her drive and focus, we know she will accomplish this goal too!



Jessica Ortiz

By Mary McCormick and Bill Coleman, Jessica's RCM Mentors

Congratulations to Jessica Ortiz who graduated from UW-Whitewater on May 16th! Jessica majored in Criminology and minored in Sociology. She is actively looking for a job in her field. Her goal is to become a crime scene investigator to help families seek

justice for their loved ones.

Jessica entered UW-Whitewater in the fall of 2010 after graduating from Bradley Tech. Although a strong student in high school, college proved to be a challenge. At the end of 2013, Jessica wrote: "Being in college made me realize that I really need to be motivated to finish, otherwise I will not get the grades and never finish. I always say that everything has a purpose so everything happens for a reason. College has focused me on working on my challenges and getting my grades up."

While at UW-Whitewater, Jessica engaged in multiple activities. She is particularly proud of her time as a Team Leader Coordinator for the Pre-college program. Jessica served as a role model and provided encouragement and support to the students and team leaders.

She also worked as monitor in the Individualized Learning System in Educational Media. ILSEM is a learning system designed to present students hands-on practical experiences at the introductory level with classroom technologies for print, graphics and visual communication, and related web-based resources. In her senior year, Jessica provided care and assistance to disabled students with daily activities getting about on campus.

As Jessica's Rotary mentors throughout her college career, we have been impressed by Jessica's "stick-to-itiveness" and growth of confidence over the past several years, and look forward to following her career. ☺

PHOTO gallery



Rotarians at our VIP, behind-the-scenes Tyrotarian tour of Miller Park.

Armed Forces Day at Rotary



Left: Rotarian and veteran Ed Heinecke stands during the Great Lakes Navy Band's service song medley, when we recognized our veterans and guests in uniform. *Right:* Miss Wisconsin 2002 Jayme Dawicki sang the national anthem.



Past President Jim Barry & President Elect Dan Vliet (top) and Bill Zaferos & Kyle Wasserman (bottom) enjoyed the May Networking Hour at the Brown Bottle.



The traditional Color Guard



Our speaker was Dirk Debbink, U.S. Navy Reserve (retired), former Chief of the Navy Reserve and current chairman of the USS Milwaukee Commissioning Committee.

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as a firm that values diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The firm ranks impressively in surveys conducted by women's and minority groups, and both clients and independent organizations have recognized and honored Quarles for its achievements in this area. Again, his recognition for his work in promoting diversity could fill this newsletter - most recently, John received the 2012 Spirit of Excellence Award from the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession.

Rotarian Joan Prince, who nominated John for Rotary Person of the Year along with Quinn Martin, says, "John is the ultimate servant leader, selfless mentor, community builder, and global thinker," and that he is one of the most ethical individuals she has ever known.

Through his strong leadership during turbulent times and his dedication to diversity, John Daniels has made Southeastern Wisconsin a better place to live and work. ☸

Farewell from President John *continued from page 1*

value of being a Rotarian. Special thanks to GMC co-chairs Pat Cronin and Scott Fredrick for your leadership in pioneering this important initiative.

On June 24th, 2015-16 President Dan Vliet will assume leadership of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee. I know he will be a great leader for our club and encourage you to give him the strong support that you have given me.

Starting in July, I'm also taking early retirement from Rockwell Automation. Milwaukee will be our home base, but my wife Kathleen and I plan some extended travels, starting with summer adventures north through Canada up to Alaska for a couple months, somewhere south in winter, and over to Europe in spring. I'm calling it my "gap year" before any encore career, perhaps writing a business book or two. But I'll still see you on Tuesdays at Rotary as often as I can! ☸

SPEAKER schedule

JUNE 2nd - Join us to celebrate 2015 Rotary Person of the Year **John Daniels**, Chairman Emeritus of Quarles & Brady. Read more about Mr. Daniels on the first page of this newsletter.

JUNE 9th - A panel of Milwaukee journalists will interview new Journal Media Group Chief Executive Officer **Timothy Stautberg**. Journal Media Group was launched April 1 after the merger of Journal Communications Inc. and the E.W. Scripps Co. Stautberg leads a group of newspapers in 13 markets around the country, including the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. *This is a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club.*

JUNE 16th - The world muslim population of 1.6 billion (23% of world pop.) is forecast to grow to 30% of global population by 2050. What is the face of Islam in Milwaukee? Who are they? What are their values and is there a Muslim agenda? Former Rotary Club of Milwaukee member Chris Goldsmith, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum retired from the Museum in 2002. He changed his name to **Muhammad Isa**

Sadlon and four years later was the Executive Director CEO of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee, Wisconsin's largest Muslim organization. Chris (now known as Isa) will answer these questions and respond to any issues raised by attendees at the June 16 Rotary program.

JUNE 23rd - In 2014, there were over 5,000 reports of violence and maltreatment against children in Wisconsin. While Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's role in treating victims is easily understood, what's less known is the myriad of ways Children's is working to combat this preventable epidemic directly in our communities. **Peggy Troy**, CEO of Children's, will share how their team is addressing the 90 percent of risk factors outside of the doctor's office that affect a child's health and well-being, and the role she believes the business community needs to play to ensure all kids have a chance at a healthy life.

JUNE 30th - Celebrate the end of President John's term as RCM president at our 2015 Toast!

WELCOME new members



Rebecca Kiefer

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Rebecca Kiefer is an Assistant District Attorney at the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office. Her current assignment involves trial and appellate prosecution of termination of parental rights cases, helping children in the foster care system find permanence in stable and loving homes. Prior to her 2004 appointment as an Assistant District Attorney, Ms. Kiefer was an attorney at Kiefer Law Office in Kewaskum, Wisconsin. Mrs. Kiefer received her Juris Doctor from Marquette University and her Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She and her husband Paul have two young children, Aurelia and Zander.



Grady Mateen

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Grady F. Mateen is currently a Senior Pharmaceutical Sales Representative with over seven years' experience. He recently relocated to Milwaukee from Miami, Florida. While in Miami, Grady was member of the Rotary Clubs of Miami and Miami-Brickell and volunteered at a battered women's shelter and raised money for the homeless. Previously, Grady was a Senior Systems Analyst, implementing SAP globally. Grady attended both Georgetown University and The Ohio State University as a scholarship student/athlete. Grady graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Grady enjoys CrossFit, tennis and international travel.

Jeffrey Pyzyk

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Jeffery Pyzyk is President of The Appraisal Resource Group, Inc. and founded the firm in 1991. Jeff is a Member of the Appraisal Institute (MAI), a Counselor of Real Estate (CRE) and a Fellow in the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS). He holds a Master of Science Degree in Real Estate Appraisal and Investment Analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an MBA in Finance, Investment, and Banking. Jeff is a Badger through and through and has two sons, Ted and TJ, who are both currently studying at UW. Jeff resides in Grafton, with his wife Brigitte and youngest daughter Ana (13).

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERS

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed one new member and expressed thanks to the proposer:

Mark Leitner

Pia Anderson Dorius Reynard Moss

Law Practice

Proposer: Dan Nelson

Spotlight on the Good Works of the RCM Community Trust: Milwaukee Riverkeeper

On Saturday, April 18th, over 3,500 volunteers joined Milwaukee Riverkeeper for the 20th annual Spring River Cleanup. The volunteers cleaned riverbanks at 50 sites along the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers and their tributaries. This included a group of 12 Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Milwaukee who cleaned a section of the Milwaukee River near Riverside University High School, just north of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. In total, 31 volunteers collected about 80 bags of trash from around the school!

“Every year volunteers do such a great job pulling trash out of our rivers,” said Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper at Milwaukee Riverkeeper. “It’s important to remember that trash not only effects water quality, but also detracts from the natural flow and function of the rivers. Trash can affect water clarity, temperature, and reduce the ability of plants to photosynthesize.”



Volunteers at the 2015 Spring River Cleanup.
Photo courtesy of Milwaukee Riverkeeper.

This year, volunteers filled more than 5,000 bags and removed 70,000 pounds of trash and debris from area streams and rivers at sites located from Kewaskum to South Milwaukee and west to Brookfield. The trash can be interesting: from a box of live baby

bunnies (safely released into the wild) to a TV with a crayfish living in it, this year was no exception. Volunteers also found a stolen wallet and a lost cell phone, and were able to return both to the original owners!

For 20 years, Milwaukee Riverkeeper has served as an advocate and voice for the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers. Their mission is to advocate for water quality, riparian wildlife habitat, and sound land management in the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic River Watersheds. Milwaukee Riverkeeper envisions a future in which people from all walks of life will be able to enjoy the healthy waterways of the Milwaukee River Basin. Milwaukee Riverkeeper is licensed by the Waterkeeper Alliance, a network with over 240 organizations worldwide dedicated to protecting our waterways. The RCM Community Trust made a donation of \$1,000 to Milwaukee Riverkeeper to sponsor the 2015 Spring River Cleanup. Rotarian Mustafa Emir serves on the Riverkeeper Board of Directors as president.

Thanks to all who participated in the cleanup and are helping Milwaukee Riverkeeper to create fishable, swimmable rivers! 🌿



Milwaukee Rotary volunteers brought their families to help clean up the river as part of a Done-in-a-Day team